



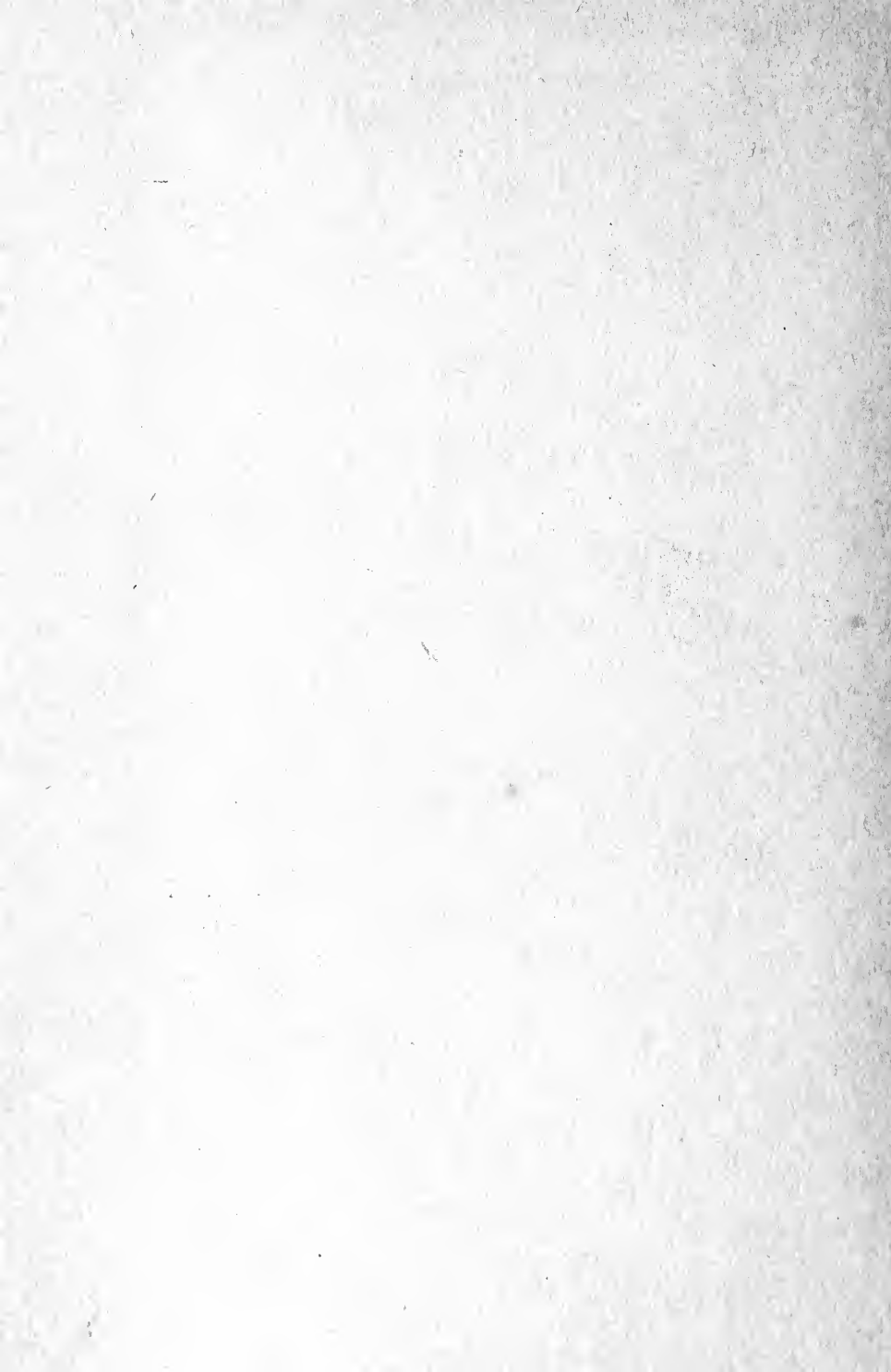
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Author _____

Title _____

Imprint _____

16-47375-2 GPO



Stop Thief

BY

CARLYLE MOORE



NEW YORK: J. L. FRENCH, 22-30 West 38th St., New York



STOP THIEF

A FARCICAL FACT IN THREE ACTS

BY
CARLYLE MOORE

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NEW YORK
SAMUEL FRENCH
PUBLISHER
28-30 WEST 38TH STREET

LONDON
SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.
26 SOUTHAMPTON STREET
STRAND

PS3525
0537 S8
1917

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NOV -5 1917

no. 1.

66.7.8. Nov. 8, 17.

GAIETY THEATRE, NEW YORK CITY,

December 25th, 1912

COHAN & HARRIS, PRESENT

STOP THIEF

A FARCICAL FACT IN THREE ACTS BY

CARLYLE MOORE

Staged under the direction of Sam Forrest

*The characters appear in the order in which they are
named*

THE CAST

Original cast

JOAN CARR.....	<i>Vivian Martin</i>
MRS. CARR.....	<i>Ruth Chester</i>
CAROLINE CARR.....	<i>Elizabeth Lane</i>
MADGE CARR.....	<i>Louise Woods</i>
NELL.....	<i>Mary Ryan</i>
WILLIAM CARR.....	<i>Frank Bacon</i>
JAMES CLUNEY.....	<i>Percy Ames</i>
MR. JAMISON.....	<i>Robert Cummings</i>
DR. WILLOUGHBY.....	<i>William H. Boyd</i>
REV. MR. SPELAIN.....	<i>Harry C. Bradley</i>
JACK DOOGAN.....	<i>Richard BENNETT</i>
JOE THOMPSON.....	<i>James C. Marlowe</i>
SERGEANT OF POLICE.....	<i>Thomas Findlay</i>
POLICE OFFICER O'MALLEY.....	<i>James Ford</i>
POLICE OFFICER CLANCY.....	<i>E. J. McGuire</i>
POLICE OFFICER O'BRIEN.....	<i>Melvin Walter</i>
A CHAUFFEUR.....	<i>Albert Dunn</i>

STOP THIEF

SYNOPSIS

The entire action of the play takes place in the Carr residence, Providence, R. I.

The incidents occur during the actual playing time of the piece.

SCENE

Act	I.	Living room in the Carr residence.
Act	II.	" " " " " "
Act	III.	" " " " " "

STOP THIEF

ACT I, II and III

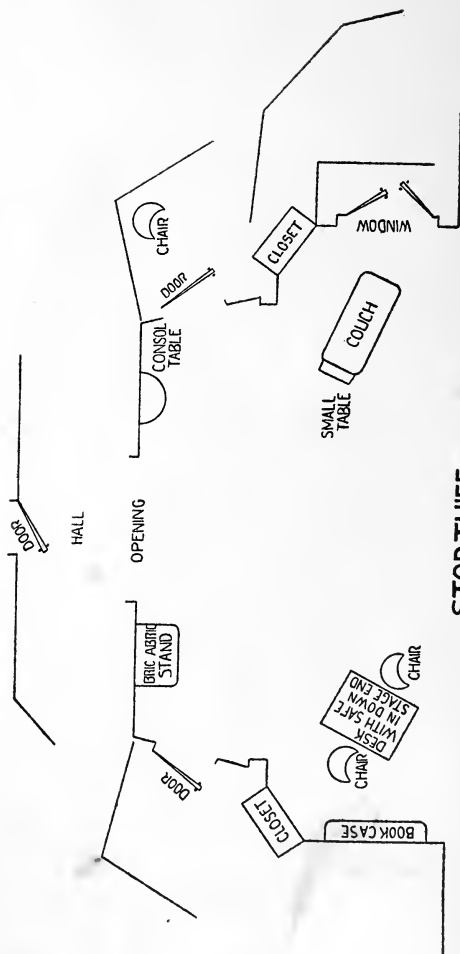
OFF-STAGE PROPS

One wedding bouquet—L.
One jewelled ear-trumpet—L.
One pearl necklace—L.
Two five-hundred dollar bills—L.
Three revolvers—L.
One diamond bracelet—L.
Gold and green bonds—L.
Two police warrants—L.
Two reading books—L.
Six police whistles—L.
One gold watch and chain—L.

ON STAGE

One chocolate set (Silver) and tray
Clothes in closet—R.

BACKING



STOP THIEF
SCENE FOR ACTS I, II & III

STOP THIEF

ACT I

SCENE: *Living room in the CARR residence, Providence, R. I. There is a large doorway center, at the back, that lets into a hallway, in which the door to another room is seen. The door in the hall opens toward the audience. Single doors upper right and left opening off-stage. Closets in middle of right and left walls. At lower left there is a large French window opening onto a balcony with balustrade. Book-case at lower right. Desk with two chairs lower right. There is a small safe at the end of the desk facing audience. Couch, with a small table at its head, lower left. Bric-a-Brac stand at right of center opening and a console table at left of center opening. Chair in hall outside door upper left. Five old etchings in walnut frames on scene, as follows: Right and left of center opening of back; right and left over closets, and over book-case. Portieres on center opening and window lower left. All furniture walnut and modern. All over carpet. Four brackets and chandelier.*

At rise of curtain JOAN enters from center, goes to 'phone on desk right and calls number.

JOAN. Give me 2100 Westminster, please. Hello, hello, is that you, Dr. Willoughby? (*Laughs*) Yes, of course it's Joan. Can't you recognize my voice? (*Laughs*) You'd better hurry over here if you intend to be the best man at the wedding.—We expect the Minister any minute now. Oh, she's all excited, of course.—The most beautiful wedding presents I've ever seen.—Yes.—What? (*Laughs*) Oh, don't be silly, Doctor—I'll tell Mother you're on the way. (*Hangs up receiver and goes to MRS. CARR, who has entered, center, during conversation at 'phone*)

MRS. CARR. Who was that? Dr. Willoughby? (*Left center*)

JOAN. (*Right center*) Yes. He'll be here in ten minutes, he said.

MRS. CARR. (*Shows JOAN bracelet*) Joan, look, what do you think of that?

JOAN. A diamond bracelet! Oh, it's gorgeous, Mother!

MRS. CARR. It's my wedding present to Madge. I'm going to slip it on her wrist before the ceremony. Don't breathe a word of it, dear.

JOAN. (*Crosses to L. admiring bracelet*) Not a word. My goodness, what wonderful wedding gifts!

CAROLINE. (*Has entered from L. c. Comes center*) Oh, Mother, have you seen Madge's bouquet?

MRS. CARR. Yes, dear, it's perfectly beautiful.

JOAN. (*Left center*) Look here, Caroline, Mother's present to Madge. Isn't it lovely?

CAROLINE. I've seen it, dear, it's exquisite. I don't believe anyone else ever got so many valuable wedding presents.

MRS. CARR. Yes, indeed. She's a very lucky girl. (*MADGE enters L. c. She is carrying a string of pearls. Goes to left of MRS. CARR.*)

MADGE. Mother, Joan, Caroline, look, see here, a glorious string of pearls!

JOAN. (*Crosses to MADGE*) Pearls!

CAROLINE. Gracious!

MRS. CARR. From whom, Madge?

MADGE. From James. What I've always wanted, Mother: a string of pearls.

MRS. CARR. (*Looking at them*) Wonderful.

CAROLINE. I should say so.

JOAN. Are they real?

MADGE. Of course, they're real, you monkey. (*Laughs, takes pearls and puts them on*) Oh, I'm the happiest girl in the whole wide world. (*Kisses her mother, JOAN, and CAROLINE, and sweeps up-stage singing to the Wedding March. JOAN and CAROLINE follow. The door bell rings*)

MRS. CARR. See who's at the door.

CAROLINE. Yes, Mother, right away. (*Starts left, singing*)

MADGE. (*Center*) Wait, it may be James.
(*Takes off necklace*) Put this back in the box.

JOAN. Yes, dear. (*Exits left, singing the Wedding March*)

MRS. CARR. (*Crosses up left to CAROLINE*) If it's the new maid have her wait in here for me. I want to give her some final instructions before she starts in.

(*CAROLINE exits L. U. E.*)

MADGE. (*Up right center*) A new lady's maid?

MRS. CARR. (*Up L. C.*) Yes, dear, I engaged her yesterday. You'll need a maid; that is, until after the honeymoon.

MADGE. Oh, you're just the dearest mother in the world. (*Kisses MRS. CARR*)

MRS. CARR. Madge, dear, I feel as though I'm losing you. (*Starts crying*)

MADGE. Now, Mother, please don't make me cry: my nose will get red.

MRS. CARR. We mustn't have that, darling. Why, Madge, you haven't got your veil on yet. Come, we must put it on at once. (*Both exit L. U., talking ad. lib. until off*)

CAROLINE. (*Enter L. U. with NELL; comes down c. with NELL on her left*) Come right in here. I'll tell Mother you've arrived. She'll tell you exactly where to go and what to do.

NELL. Thank you, ma'am.

CAROLINE. Let me see, your name is——?

NELL. Nellie.

CAROLINE. Nellie—very well. I'm the bride's sister. You may call me Miss Caroline.

NELL. Miss Caroline?

CAROLINE. Yes. Just wait here a few minutes, Mother will give you full instructions.

NELL. Yes, Miss Caroline.

CAROLINE. I'll tell her you're here. (*Exits left center*)

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(NELL lays down satchel and takes sweeping glance at the room. She then goes to doors and opens each, gets the lay of the place, and then, as if realizing that someone is approaching, rushes over left, picks up satchel again and looks unconcerned. This bit of business is to be played so broadly as to give the audience an idea of mystery. The door left opens and MR. CARR enters with hat and coat on. He comes to center and scrutinizes NELL.)

CARR. (*After looking NELL over*) Hello! Waiting to see someone?

NELL. Yes, sir, I'm waiting to see Mrs. Carr.

CARR. Well, I'm Mrs. Carr's husband. What did you want to see her about?

NELL. She engaged me yesterday as lady's maid to your daughter.

CARR. Oh, yes, the lady's maid. I remember, she told me. Does she know you're here?

NELL. Miss Caroline has gone to inform her.

CARR. Then I'll tell her you've come. (*Starts up-stage as if to exit*)

CAROLINE. (*Enters from L. c.*) Hello, father.

CARR. Good-morning, Caroline.

CAROLINE. (*To NELL*) Mother will see you in a moment.

NELL. Very well, Miss Caroline.

CARR. (*Showing ring to CAROLINE. NELL eyes it at same time*) Look, Caroline, see what I've purchased for Madge: a pigeon-blood ruby ring. Do you think she will be pleased with it?

CAROLINE. (*Looking at ring*) Oh, it's scrumptious!

CARR. (*Puts ring in box, then box in overcoat-pocket, and lays the coat on chair left of desk*) It ought to be; it cost enough. And, Caroline, not a

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II

word of this to anyone, I want it to come as a great surprise.

CAROLINE. Not a word from me, Father. She has the most beautiful wedding gifts I've ever seen. (To NELL) Just wait here, my girl, Mother will see you directly. (*Starts up center*)

CARR. Has the minister arrived?

CAROLINE. Not yet. This girl is the new maid.

CARR. Yes, she told me. (CAROLINE *exits left center*) You say my wife knows you are here?

NELL. Yes, sir, I believe she does.

CARR. Um-hm. Well, I'll tell her the new cook has come.

NELL. Not the cook, sir, the lady's maid.

CARR. Oh, yes, yes, that's so, the lady's maid. Why *will* I be so absent-minded? Yes, yes, the lady's maid. How can I be so forgetful! I feel as though I am forgetting something now. (*Searches himself*) Oh, my hat, my hat. (*Picks up hat from desk and exits L. C., humming as he goes*)

(NELL *thinks a second, then goes to coat on chair, takes box from coat and ring from box. Puts ring in her shoe and is about to put box back in coat when CLUNEY enters from door left. NELL hides box behind her back.*)

CLUNEY. (*As he opens door and peeks in*) Start the band playing, here comes the bridegroom. (*Sees NELL and enters*) Oh, I beg pardon, I thought for a moment you were one of the family. (*Takes off overcoat*)

NELL. Oh, that's all right, sir, I'm the new maid.

CLUNEY. Oh, the new maid? Mrs. Carr telephoned and told me that all the servants had gone on a strike. Does she know you're here?

NELL. I believe she does, sir.

CLUNEY. Well, by Jove, I'll make sure. And do you know how I'll make sure? I'll tell her myself. (*Lays overcoat on sofa left*)

NELL. Thank you, sir.

(CLUNEY starts center and meets CARR.)

CARR. I forgot my coat.

CLUNEY. Hello, father-in-law. Well, how are you?

CARR. (*Taking overcoat from chair*) Hello, James. I'm not your father-in-law—yet.

CLUNEY. (*Shaking hands*) But you will be an hour from now, and there's no doubt but that I'm the happiest Englishman in America.

CARR. I hope you are, my boy; I hope you always will be. (*Door bell rings. To CLUNEY*) Someone at the door—see who it is.

CLUNEY. Will I see who it is? Oh, yes, of course, all the servants have gone, haven't they? Well, I might as well make myself useful before marriage, because I will have to do it after! (*Exits L. U. E.*)

CARR. Yes, please do. (*To NELL*) Now I'll tell my wife that the new waitress has arrived.

NELL. No, sir, the maid.

CARR. Oh, yes, the maid. Why *will* I be so forgetful! (*Exits L. C. After CARR's exit, NELL takes quick look around the stage. Goes up c. and looks off left. As she hears voices she resumes position back of desk right, after putting empty jewel box in CLUNEY's pocket, on sofa left*)

CLUNEY. (*Enters L. U., followed by JAMISON, who crosses to R. C.*) Come right in, Mr. Jamison. This is quite a surprise. I'll tell Mr. Carr you're here.

JAMISON. Thank you, Mr. Cluney, I won't keep you a minute. I want to extend my hearty con-

gratulations. I understand you're to become one of the family to-day.

CLUNEY. Yes, my wedding day. I'm very happy, Mr. Jamison. I suppose every man is on his wedding day.

JAMISON. (*Crosses to L., putting hat on sofa*) Yes, I believe that's the one day he's really happy.

CLUNEY. What!

JAMISON. (*Laughs*) Oh, I didn't mean it that way. (*They shake hands*)

CLUNEY. Well, I hope not.

MRS. CARR. (*Enters from L. C. and goes center*) Why, Mr. Jamison, this is a pleasant surprise. (*To CLUNEY, who is R. of MRS. CARR*) Good-morning, my dear boy. (*She shakes hands with CLUNEY*)

CLUNEY. Good-morning, mother-in-law.

MRS. CARR. (*Smiles*) Not yet.

CLUNEY. Not yet, but soon.

MRS. CARR. I hope so.

JAMISON. Pardon me. (*Shakes hands with MRS. CARR*) Congratulations, Mrs. Carr.

MRS. CARR. Thank you.

CLUNEY. (*Up center*) Mrs. Carr, this young lady is waiting to see you, I believe. (*Points to NELL*)

MRS. CARR. (*Turns to NELL*) Oh, yes, she's the new lady's maid.

NELL. Yes, Ma'am.

MRS. CARR. (*To JAMISON*) Excuse me a moment, Mr. Jamison. Won't you sit down?

JAMISON. Thank you.

(*MRS. CARR goes to NELL.*)

CLUNEY. I'll tell Mr. Carr you want to see him, Jamison. (*Gets hat and coat and exits L. C.*)

JAMISON. Thank you. (*Down left*)

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MRS. CARR. (*Up right to NELL*) Did you bring your things with you?

NELL. Yes, Ma'am. That is my satchel over there, and my trunk will be here later on. (*Goes L. and picks up satchel, and then crosses up to R. of MRS. CARR*)

MRS. CARR. Very well, come with me and I will take you right up to my daughter's room. (*To JAMISON*) You'll excuse me, Mr. Jamison?

JAMISON. Of course, don't mind me. Just want to have a short business talk with your husband, that's all.

MRS. CARR. Oh, I see. (*Starts to exit and meets CARR entering left center*)

CARR. (*Enters L. C. carrying a piece of hose eight inches long. To MRS. CARR*) Where's Jamison?

MRS. CARR. There he is, dear. (*Points to JAMISON*)

JAMISON. Here I am.

CARR. Hello, Jamison. (*Meets JAMISON C. and shakes hands. MRS. CARR and NELL exit toward center*)

JAMISON. Good-morning. Congratulations, Mr. Carr. I understand Mr. Cluney is to become your son-in-law to-day.

CARR. Yes, to-day's the day. You must stay for the wedding breakfast.

JAMISON. Thanks, but I can't. I'm busy to-day. I expect to put through a big deal this morning. That's what I've come here for: to prepare you for a big surprise.

CARR. A surprise? I like surprises.

JAMISON. You remember that some time ago I borrowed some money from you?

CARR. Did you? You borrowed money from me? Oh, why *will* I be so forgetful?

JAMISON. You probably remember that I gave

you some steel common stock as security on the loan?

CARR. Yes, yes, the steel stock. Yes, I have them in the safe.

JAMISON. Good! Before the day is over I may be able to redeem that stock and pay you back; that is, of course, providing I put through the deal I'm negotiating.

CARR. Splendid, splendid! That's good for you and for me. I'm a trifle short. I just purchased a beautiful pigeon-blood ruby ring for my daughter as a wedding gift. It cost a small fortune.

JAMISON. Yes, yes, I understand. You have the stock handy so you can produce it at a moment's notice?

CARR. Yes, right there in the safe.

JAMISON. That's all I want to know. I must run along now. Sorry I can't join you at the wedding breakfast, but business, you understand, prevents. Oh, my compliments to your daughter, Mr. Carr, and I trust the alliance will prove a happy one.

CARR. Thank you.

JAMISON. Bye-bye, for now I must rush.
(*Shakes hands with CARR, then crosses up L.*)

CARR. (*Goes to door with JAMISON, L. U.*) I trust your business affairs will come out as you anticipate.

JAMISON. Thank you. (*Exits L. U. E. Door slams. MRS. CARR enters with flowers, which she places on desk R.*)

CARR. (*To MRS. CARR R.*) Good news, Mother, good news! Jamison is going to redeem the stock I loaned him some money on.

MRS. CARR. It's about time, isn't it? William, what on earth is that you're carrying in your hand?

CARR. (*Looking at hose he has in his hand*) Now, where did I get that? Oh, yes, of course. I remember. It's a piece of garden hose, a remark-

ably fine piece of hose. I'm going to have it duplicated.

MRS. CARR. William, what a thing to think of on such a day!

CARR. Such a day? What day is it?

MRS. CARR. What day is it? Only your daughter's wedding day, that's all.

CARR. Oh, yes, Madge's wedding day. And, Mother, I've bought her a ring.

MRS. CARR. You have?

CARR. Yes, a pigeon-blood ruby costing over a thousand dollars.

MRS. CARR. Where is it? Let me see it.

CARR. I have it here. I want you to see it. Now what did I do with it? (*Searches himself*)

MRS. CARR. Don't tell me you've mislaid it, William.

CARR. Oh, I remember, Mother, it's in my overcoat in my room. Come, I want you to see it, it's very beautiful. I'll go and get it. (*MRS. CARR lays ear-trumpet on desk, then takes flowers up R. and arranges them in vase on table. CARR goes up C. stops, thinks, then returns to desk*) I don't want to mislay this hose. (*Puts trumpet in drawer of desk and exits, calling*) Mother, Mother!

MRS. CARR. Yes, dear. I'm coming. (*Starts up C. then returns to desk, picks up hose and follows CARR off L. C.*) I'm getting as careless as William.

(*DR. WILLOUGHBY enters through window, looks around, and on seeing no one, goes to 'phone on desk and calls number, after placing medicine case and hat on chair left.*)

DR. WILLOUGHBY. 2100 Westminster. (*Whistles while waiting for number. JOAN enters from L. C. and on seeing the DOCTOR, starts giggling*)

JOAN. Oh, hello, Dr. Willoughby.

DR. WILLOUGHBY. Hello, Joan, I'll be with you in a moment. I was just calling up my office.

JOAN. Why didn't you send me word that you were here?

DR. WILLOUGHBY. I just arrived. Took a short-cut across the lawn, through the window. (*In 'phone*) Hello, Mary, this is the doctor. If Mr. Works calls up, or anything else important happens, you will find me at Mr. Carr's home. I'll be here for half an hour. Understand?—Yes. (*Hangs up receiver and goes to JOAN*) Just think, in half an hour your sister Madge will be a married woman.

JOAN. Yes, isn't it exciting? She has a lady's maid, and, oh, everything.

DR. WILLOUGHBY. A lady's maid?

JOAN. Yes, Mother engaged her. She just got here. I do hope you won't be called away before the wedding breakfast.

DR. WILLOUGHBY. So do I. Do you really want me to stay?

JOAN. Of course I do. (*Sits on sofa and beckons DOCTOR to sit beside her, which he does*) Oh, isn't it a lot of fun, though? Don't you just love weddings? (*Coquettish business*)

DR. WILLOUGHBY. Do you?

JOAN. I should say so. I'm as nervous as if I were going to be married myself.

DR. WILLOUGHBY. And would you really be nervous if you were going to be married yourself?

JOAN. Certainly. Wouldn't you be?

DR. WILLOUGHBY. I suppose so.

JOAN. Doctor, you and James have had an apartment together for a long time now, haven't you?

DOCTOR. Yes, over a year.

JOAN. Won't you be rather lonesome now that he is going to be married?

DOCTOR. (*Taking license from pocket*) Yes, I

thought of that this morning, so I went down and got a marriage license.

JOAN. A marriage license? Why, what for?

DOCTOR. Don't you think that your sister and my friend James are setting us an example that we should profit by?

JOAN. Why, what do you mean, Doctor?

DOCTOR. Now, don't call me Doctor. You know my name and you know my sentiments, Joan. I can't stand this much longer. I'm madly in love with you and you know it.

JOAN. What!

DOCTOR. Yes, and you're madly in love with me.

JOAN. Doctor, this is so sudden!

DOCTOR. Joan, I give you my word of honor that I will never be a happy man—(*'Phone rings. Both stop and look at it. 'Phone rings again* JOAN crosses to desk and answers it. DOCTOR rises) And I nearly had her! (*Puts license in pocket*)

JOAN. (*Picks up receiver*) Hello! Hold the wire, please. (*Hangs up receiver and smiles at DOCTOR*) What were you saying, Doctor?

DOCTOR. Joan, answer me. (*'Phone rings again*)

JOAN. (*Answers 'phone*) Hello, yes, this is Mr. Carr's home.—Who? Nellie Jones? No. There's no Nellie Jones in this house.

NELL. (*Has entered L. C.*) I guess that's for me, Miss.

JOAN. Oh, hold the wire. (*To NELL*) Your brother wants to talk to you. (*Gives receiver to NELL and crosses to DOCTOR*)

NELL. Thank you. (*In 'phone*) Hello?

DOCTOR. (*To JOAN*) Who is she?

JOAN. Madge's new maid.

(NELL waits.)

DOCTOR. (*Kisses JOAN*) Come on out on the

lawn where we can be alone. I want to finish what I started.

JOAN. Don't talk so loud; wait till we get on the lawn.

DOCTOR. Every time I get alone with you, you say "wait, wait". We never get a chance to talk—*(Etc., etc. Both talk ad lib. as they exit through window)*

NELL. *(At 'phone)* Yes, dear, I understand. No, I've only been here ten minutes. Now listen, get this quick, Jack.—I've got the lay. Wedding presents all over the place—safe in the reception room—cinch to handle this nest—easy picking.—Come over right away, I'll be on the watch. I've grabbed a sparkler already. We can turn the trick in half an hour while they're at the wedding breakfast. Come to the East window—it opens on the lawn. I'll take care of the rest. You got me? Hang up. *(CAROLINE has entered from L. c.)* Yes, brother dear, I like the place. The people here are very kind. Good-bye, brother dear. *(Hangs up receiver and speaks to CAROLINE)* Oh, Miss Caroline, I couldn't resist the temptation of telling my brother what a fine place I have.

CAROLINE. Oh, that's all right. *(Looking around)* Have you seen anything of Mother's ear-trumpet?

NELL. An ear-trumpet?

CAROLINE. Yes, she's mislaid it. *(Goes L. U. looking)*

NELL. Why, no, Miss, but I'll look around and perhaps find it for her somewhere. *(Looks R. U. JOAN and DOCTOR enter through window)*

MRS. CARR. *(Enters from L. c., and goes center)* Joan, Caroline, where are you? Oh, there you are.

JOAN. What is it, Mother?

MRS. CARR. Have either of you seen anything of a ruby ring?

JOAN and CAROLINE. A ruby ring?

MRS. CARR. Yes, a ruby ring—pigeon-blood rubies worth over a thousand dollars. (*To JOAN*) Your father bought it for Madge less than an hour ago. It's gone—it's lost—he's mislaid it.

ALL. What! (*All start looking around room; NELL R. works around at back to door L. U. MRS. CARR R. C. JOAN L. C. DOCTOR L. CAROLINE up R.*)

CARR. (*Enters from L. C. and comes to center*) It's gone, it's gone. I know I had it. I know I did. I can swear I had it. Where can it be? How did I lose it? Where did I put it?

(*MADGE enters from L. C. and rushes to MRS. CARR R. C.*)

MADGE. Mother, what is it? Mother, dear, tell me what's happened?

MRS. CARR. We've lost a wedding present for you, dear. A ruby ring worth over a thousand dollars. Your father has mislaid it.

MADGE. A ruby ring? A present for me? Oh, it must be somewhere, it must be. (*All are looking. Door bell rings off L.*)

JOAN. There's someone at the door.

CAROLINE. (*Up R. to NELL*) See who it is.

NELL. Yes, ma'am. (*Exits L. C.*)

MRS. CARR. Come here, all of you. (*They gather around her*)

CARR. Have you found it?

MRS. CARR. No, no, listen. The new girl, the maid, is the only stranger in the house. She must be searched. (*They all start to speak at once. MRS. CARR silences them as NELL re-enters*) Well?

NELL. The Reverend Mr. Spelvin.

MRS. CARR. Who?

NELL. The minister.

ALL. The minister.

MINISTER. (*Enters L. U. and crosses to c.*)
Good-morning.

ALL. Good-morning.

CARR. Good-morning, good-morning. (*Everybody is searching*)

MINISTER. (*Center*) Has something been lost?

DOCTOR. Yes, your Reverence, a ruby ring.
Wedding present for Miss Carr from her father.

MINISTER. (*Up to doors c.*) How unfortunate!
We must find it before the ceremony is performed.
(*All are looking, including minister. CLUNEY enters L. c. bumps into minister*) Good-morning, Mr. Cluney.

CLUNEY. Good-morning. Any trace of it at all?

ALL. (*Still searching*) None.

CLUNEY. Why not search other parts of the house at the same time? (*To JOAN*) Go along, Joan.

(*JOAN exits L. c. with minister and CAROLINE.*)

DOCTOR. Yes, that's a good idea.

CLUNEY. (*To DOCTOR*) Not you, I want a word with you. (*Business with DOCTOR. Crosses R.*)
Madge!

MADGE. Yes, dear?

CLUNEY. Search other parts of the house.

MADGE. Very well—everywhere—all over the house, dear. (*Exits L. c.*)

CLUNEY. (*Takes MRS. CARR up center*) Mrs. Carr, Dr. Willoughby and I will go over this room very thoroughly, while you search some other part of the house. (*MRS. CARR exits L. c. To CARR*)
Mr. Carr, search some other part of the house.

CARR. Some other part of the house. (*Exits L. c.*)

(NELL, on hearing the preceding conversation and suspecting, is on knees back of the sofa L., as if looking.)

CLUNEY. (L. C. to DR.) Doctor, there's a mystery here.

DOCTOR. (L. C.) What do you mean?

CLUNEY. I found this in my overcoat pocket. (*Produces box*)

DOCTOR. The ring!

CLUNEY. No, but evidently the box the ring came in. It's marked "Solomon." That's where he must have bought it. The box is empty. It was in my pocket; how did it get there?

DOCTOR. Someone must have put it there.

CLUNEY. Exactly.

DOCTOR. What do you make of it?

CLUNEY. There's a thief in the house.

DOCTOR. What!

CLUNEY. There must be: I didn't put it there.

DOCTOR. Are you sure you didn't?

CLUNEY. How could I? Why should I? There's either a plot on foot to ruin me or someone is trying to shield himself by throwing the blame on me. Thank goodness, the box was empty. Can you imagine what would have happened if it had been found on me?

DOCTOR. Great Scott, this is a mystery! (*Turns up C.*)

JOAN. (*Enters hurriedly from L. C.*) Doctor, Doctor, come to Mother, she's having hysterics. We're afraid she's going to faint.

DOCTOR. She must be kept quiet—she must be kept quiet. (*Exits with JOAN L. C.*)

CLUNEY. Hah, this is a nice wedding day! All the servants on strike—mother-in-law in hysterics, strange things in my pocket—what the Dickens will I do? I know! (*Puts empty box on R. U. corner*)

of desk. Takes receiver from 'phone) Give me hysterics—no, no, Central, give me police headquarters, please. *(Waits for number)* Hello, police headquarters, this is Mr. Carr's house, 70 Blank Street. Will you send a plain-clothes man here in a hurry? Tell him not to see or speak to anyone but Mr. Cluney, understand?—What? Mr. Cluney. Thank you. *(Hangs up receiver. During CLUNEY's talk at 'phone, NELL is moving around at back and comes to table, placing ring back in box which CLUNEY has left on desk. NELL exits R. U., as CARR, followed by CAROLINE, enters L. C.)*

CARR. Don't you remember, Caroline? Don't you remember my showing it to you here, in this room?

CAROLINE. Of course I do, Father. You must have mislaid it.

CLUNEY. What are you going to do about it? *(Crosses to right corner)*

CARR. I'm going to tell the jeweler it's lost. Better still, I'll telephone the newspapers and advertise for it, that's what I'll do. *(As CARR goes toward 'phone he sees box on desk. CLUNEY sees it at the same time. Both reach for it. CARR gets it. CLUNEY goes down right. CARR holds up box)* That's it. I've found it—I've found it—I've found it!

CAROLINE. *(Runs up center, yelling)* He's found it—he's found it—he's found it! *(MADGE, DOCTOR and MINISTER enter L. C. MINISTER and CAROLINE stay up center. MADGE left center, and CLUNEY down right. DOCTOR goes right of desk)*

CARR. I've found it—I've found it—I've found it.

DOCTOR. That's good. Where did you find it?

CARR. Right here on the desk just where I laid it. See, here's the box.

CLUNEY. (*To DOCTOR*) That's the empty box I left there. (*Sits on edge of desk*)

DOCTOR. (*Right*) Oh, Lord!

MADGE. May I see it, Daddy?

(*CARR hands MADGE box.*)

CARR. Isn't it a beauty?

(*MADGE takes ring from box. DOCTOR and CLUNEY stare in surprise.*)

MADGE. It's gorgeous! (*Over to CLUNEY*) James dear, look! A beautiful pigeon-blood ruby. (*Kisses CARR*) You're just the dearest Dad in all the world.

MINISTER. Don't you think we had better perform the ceremony now that we are all happy again?

ALL. Yes, yes, the ceremony. Come on, come on.

(*CAROLINE and minister exit L. c.*)

MADGE. (*Takes CLUNEY's hands R. c.*) Yes, come, James, I'm ready to be made Mrs. Cluney.

CLUNEY. Just a moment, darling. I want a few words with Dr. Willoughby first.

MADGE. Well, you won't delay, will you, dear?

CLUNEY. I won't.

MADGE. Come, Daddy.

CARR. You won't keep us waiting, will you, boys? (*Goes up c. with Madge*)

CLUNEY. No, we won't.

MADGE. You'll hurry, won't you, dear? (*CARR and MADGE exit c. L. All are off except CLUNEY and DOCTOR*)

CLUNEY. (*L. c.*) What do you make of this?

DOCTOR. (R. C.) I thought you said the box was empty?

CLUNEY. So it was.

DOCTOR. But it wasn't.

CLUNEY. I can swear it was.

DOCTOR. Well, the ring couldn't have walked back in the box.

CLUNEY. That's true, too, but——

DOCTOR. See here, James, are you absolutely sure you didn't take that box and put it in your pocket?

CLUNEY. Of course I am. I never saw the damn thing till I found it there.

DOCTOR. Are you sure you're not mistaken?

CLUNEY. How could I be mistaken?

DOCTOR. You were mistaken about the box being empty, weren't you?

CLUNEY. I don't think so, but—(*Crosses to R.*) Say, Doctor, what the dickens is the matter with me anyway? (*Feels in pocket and pulls out watch*) What the devil is this?

DOCTOR. (*Crosses to him*) My watch.

CLUNEY. Where did I get it?

DOCTOR. That's just it; where did you get it?

CLUNEY. Oh, yes, I was in your room this morning—must have taken it unconsciously. (*Starts to put watch back in his pocket, catches himself and hands it back to DOCTOR*)

DOCTOR. Unconsciously. (*Pauses*) See here, James, I want you to tell me something. I want the truth. Now don't be offended. Have you ever taken anything before?

CLUNEY. What the devil do you mean? Do you think I'm a thief?

DOCTOR. No, no, don't misunderstand me.

CLUNEY. Do you mean to insinuate that I take things?

DOCTOR. Unconsciously, I mean, in a moment of excitement like this—your wedding day.

CLUNEY. I never heard of such rot.

DOCTOR. Unconscious kleptomania? Why, it's common nowadays.

CLUNEY. It is?

DOCTOR. Of course. I know hundreds of cases. To your knowledge, was there ever a kleptomaniac in your family?

CLUNEY. Do you mean to say that you think—?

DOCTOR. Now, don't dodge the question! Answer me truthfully: have you ever heard of it in your family?

CLUNEY. Why? Is it hereditary?

DOCTOR. Positively.

CLUNEY. (*Thinks—looks wild-eyed*) My Lord, I did have an uncle once——!

DOCTOR. I thought so. (*Quiets CLUNEY*) Don't let it excite you, it's not incurable. We'll get it in its early stages and——

CLUNEY. (*Crosses L. and sits on sofa*) Early stages be damned!

DOCTOR. (*Sits on sofa with CLUNEY*) Please keep cool; it's no crime, it's a disease.

CLUNEY. Disease!

DOCTOR. Don't lose your temper. If your nerves fail you'll lose your power of will to regulate your actions—and don't mention this to a soul. If they ever learn that your uncle was a kleptomaniac they'll watch you like hawks.

CLUNEY. Hawks! Don't talk about hawks—I hate them! Now, see here, Doctor, this is ridiculous. Why, you don't imagine for a moment that——? (*Crosses to R.*)

DOCTOR. (*Follows CLUNEY R. and interrupts*) There, there, now, change the subject.

CLUNEY. Then you really believe that I've inherited that confounded uncle's infirmity?

DOCTOR. Forget it, please. I know what's best, and I tell you to forget it.

CLUNEY. Forget it! One moment you tell me I'm a kleptomaniac and the next moment you tell me to forget it. Ha!

DOCTOR. Here's something to occupy your mind—your international steel bonds. (*Takes bonds from pocket and hands them to CLUNEY*)

CLUNEY. Steel bonds? I don't want any steel bonds.

DOCTOR. Why, you 'phoned me to get them out of the vault and bring them to you.

CLUNEY. I did?

DOCTOR. Yes, don't you remember?

CLUNEY. Oh, Lord, I'm so excited I forgot. I'm going to give them to Madge for a wedding present.

DOCTOR. That's a bully idea! (*Slaps CLUNEY on shoulder*) Now remember my advice; drive that other thing from your mind entirely.

CLUNEY. But, Doctor, what if it's true? What if I am a kleptomaniac, and should start taking things? What could I say? How could I explain?

(*CARR enters L. c., looking around room.*)

DOCTOR. Hush, hush, please.

CLUNEY. But what if something should be lost?

CARR. Mother's lost her ear-trumpet.

CLUNEY. My Lord!

CARR. A beautiful jewelled ear-trumpet.

CLUNEY. (*To DOCTOR*) Do you suppose——?

DOCTOR. No, no.

CARR. Have either of you seen it?

DOCTOR. (*Crossing to CARR*) An ear-trumpet?

CARR. Mother thought this was it. (*Holds up hose*) I can swear I put this hose in that drawer the last time I was in this room. (*Opens drawer of*

desk) Why here it is. (*Takes trumpet from drawer*)

DOCTOR and CLUNEY. (*Eagerly*) The ear-trumpet?

CARR. How did it get in there? (*Puts hose back in drawer and ear-trumpet on desk. To CLUNEY*) Madge told me to tell you——

CLUNEY. (*Down right*) Mr. Carr, will you please put this in a safe place for me until after the wedding?

CARR. What is it?

CLUNEY. A present for Madge.

CARR. (*Takes bonds from CLUNEY and looks at them*) International steel bonds. (*Laughs*) I've got a bundle of them in the safe now. Took them from Jamison as security on a loan. They don't earn enough to pay interest. He's going to redeem them to-day, thank Heaven. No more speculative stock for me.

DOCTOR. But these are not speculative: these are bonds guaranteed to pay six per cent. The common stock is speculative. Perhaps that's what you've taken as security.

CARR. (*Looks at bonds*) Oh, that's so. These are bonds. Put them in the safe, James. (*Hands CLUNEY bonds and goes up c.*)

CLUNEY. (*Goes to safe*) It's locked.

CARR. I'll give you the combination. (*As CARR is giving CLUNEY the combination of safe, the DOCTOR is on CARR's left looking at note book from which CARR is reading. CARR looks at DOCTOR suspiciously*) Start at 16.

CLUNEY. Start at 16.

CARR. Three right to 48.

CLUNEY. Three right to 48.

CARR. Four left to 32.

CLUNEY. Four left to 32.

CARR. Then turn the knob.

CLUNEY. Then turn the knob. (*After he has opened the safe*) Here, Mr. Carr, you put them in the safe, please. I'd rather you'd do it, if you don't mind. (*Hands bonds to CARR, who returns to safe*)

CARR. (*Takes bonds from CLUNEY*) Certainly. What's the matter? Afraid to trust yourself around where there's valuable articles? (*CLUNEY and DOCTOR stare at each other. CARR laughs and puts bonds in safe and takes out sunburst*) See here, what do you think of that?

CLUNEY. (*Starts to take sunburst, and then puts hands behind him*) By George, that's a beauty! I didn't know you went in for jewelry.

CARR. It's an old heirloom.

DOCTOR. It's a corker! Must be a hundred cut stones.

CARR. (*Takes sunburst from DOCTOR*) Mother's afraid of losing it. It will be Madge's some day.

DOCTOR. (*Up to back of desk*) I envy her.

MRS. CARR. (*Off left*) William, William, did you find my ear-trumpet, dear?

CARR. (*Closes safe, but doesn't lock it*) Your ear-trumpet? Yes, here it is. (*Picks up 'phone and starts up center*)

DOCTOR. Here, you've got the wrong article again. (*Hands CARR trumpet and replaces 'phone on desk*)

CARR. Oh, why will I be so forgetful? (*Exits L. C.*)

DOCTOR. He's nearly as bad as you are.

CLUNEY. (*Up center*) Doctor, this is a very serious matter. If you really think I'm a kleptomaniac this marriage ought to be postponed.

DOCTOR. (*As he and CLUNEY exit L. C. talking ad. lib.*) Now you go on with the ceremony and after it's all over I'll take up the case for you, and

everything will be all right—(Etc., etc. Exits L. c.)

DOOGAN. (Enters from window left, looks around room, goes up right to door, and then left to center) Hist! Hist! (NELL comes from R. c., and stands looking straight ahead. He pantomimes NELL to close doors. She pulls doors together c. DOOGAN goes to window L. and draws curtains. They meet center) Some swell dump, Nell. (He kisses NELL. She pushes him away)

NELL. Wait, Jack.

DOOGAN. What's the matter?

NELL. Take it on the run, Jack, we're in wrong here.

DOOGAN. What do you mean?

NELL. They've telephoned headquarters for a plain-clothes man.

DOOGAN. You mean they're on to us?

NELL. No, they thought they'd lost a ring. I copped it, but slipped it back.

DOOGAN. What did you do that for?

NELL. So they'd find it and stop the search. I'll stick around here, Jack. You go and beat it.

DOOGAN. And leave you here to take a chance? (Crosses R.) Not on your life. Not me.

NELL. We'll be nabbed sure if you don't, Jack.

DOOGAN. Now, don't get panickey, don't get panickey. We'll turn this crib in less time than it takes to tell it. We're bound to have luck now that we're going to turn straight. Remember, this is to be our last trick.

NELL. Do you mean that, Jack?

DOOGAN. I gave you my word, didn't I?

NELL. Yes, Jack.

DOOGAN. Say, what's the matter, don't you think I love you?

NELL. Yes, Jack.

DOOGAN. You're going to marry me, ain't you?

NELL. Yes, Jack.

DOOGAN. That's why I'm going straight.

NELL. But will you stay straight, Jack?

DOOGAN. Why, of course I will. Say, look here, Nell, everybody in the world has got an ambition; you're mine, honey. Here's the marriage license. (*Shows her license*) We'll be spliced this afternoon and then the straight and narrow for ours for evermore, but we've got to get a bank roll to make an honest start with, ain't we?

NELL. Sure, Jack.

DOOGAN. (*Kisses NELL. Turns right*) Sure! Come on, let's clean up. What's loose?

NELL. Wedding presents and the family silver.

DOOGAN. Family silver ain't enough to make an honest start with. Have you got the combination of this? (*Points to safe*)

NELL. No, I've been here only twenty minutes.

DOOGAN. I'll turn it inside out in less time than that. (*Points to closet*) What's this?

NELL. Closet.

DOOGAN. Quick, give me the house-plan.

NELL. (*Up c. Pointing to L. v. door*) This door—front hall to the street.

DOOGAN. (*Back of desk. Points up-stage R.*) And this?

NELL. Dining-room with a clean shoot to the servants' entry and kitchen. (*DOOGAN points c.*) Middle hall. A getaway front or back.

DOOGAN. Fine!

NELL. Do you get me?

DOOGAN. I got you, Steve.

NELL. (*As voices are heard off-stage*) Quick, get in there. (*DOOGAN hides in closet. NELL pulls back curtains L. as MR. and MRS. CARR enter*)

MRS. CARR. (*Off-stage*) Yes, most extraordinary. I was showing it to Joan in this room only a few moments ago.

CARR. (R. c.) Where could you have laid it, Mother?

MRS. CARR. (L. c.) I told you, dear, that I showed it to Joan, and she tells me that she showed it to you.

CARR. (*Right*) Nonsense.

NELL. (*Back of sofa L.*) Did you find the ring, Ma'am?

MRS. CARR. (L. c.) Oh, yes, we found the ring, but now we've lost a diamond bracelet.

NELL. A diamond bracelet, Ma'am?

MRS. CARR. Yes, most extraordinary, I was showing it to Miss Joan in this room only a moment ago. (*Looking around room*)

CARR. (*Looking around R.*) But you haven't been in here since then, Mother. It must be in some other part of the house. (*Searches R.*)

NELL. (*Going up c.*) I'll look all over, ma'am. Perhaps you dropped it on the stairs. I'll search very thoroughly. (*Exits L. c.*)

MRS. CARR. (*As NELL exits*) Yes, do. (*To CARR right*) William, I hate to suggest it, but are you sure you haven't taken it?

CARR. Mother, how could I——? (*Searches and finds bracelet in his pocket*) Here it is. Now, how did it get in my pocket?

MRS. CARR. (*Takes bracelet from him*) William, you're back to taking things again.

CARR. Mother, I haven't taken anything in years.

MRS. CARR. (*Sits L. of desk*) William, I wish you would realize what a dreadful thing it would be for Madge, if James should find out about your affliction. He would think you were a——

CARR. (*R. of desk*) A thief—a thief. Go on, say it. Anyone who knows me knows better. They know that when I take things I always put them back—if I don't forget it. It's absent-mindedness, Mother. I just can't help it.

MRS. CARR. (*Lays trumpet and bracelet on desk and goes L. for books*) I know, dear. I know, but do be careful. Please be careful for Madge's sake.

CARR. (*Picks up bracelet and trumpet from table and puts them in his pocket*) I'll be careful, Mother. I'll be careful.

MRS. CARR. (*Returning to desk*) Where is it? I laid it here a moment ago.

CARR. (*Taking things from pocket*) Here it is.

MRS. CARR. (*Turning L.*) William!

(*CARR places trumpet and bracelet on book-case, right, and then moves down R. with his hands up.*)

DOCTOR. (*Enters L. c.*) Madge wants you, Mrs. Carr. She asked me to tell you——

MRS. CARR. Yes, thanks, Doctor. Come along, William. (*Exits L. c.*)

DOCTOR. Mr. Carr, Mrs. Carr wants you.

CARR. Which way did she go?

DOCTOR. That way. (*Points L. c.* CARR goes quickly in opposite direction off R. c. DOCTOR goes to 'phone quickly) Hello! (*DOOGAN opens door of closet and picks up trumpet and bracelet*) Give me police headquarters.

(*DOOGAN quickly replaces trumpet and bracelet on book-case and closes closet door. CLUNEY enters as DOCTOR is waiting for number.*)

CLUNEY. (*Center*) Who are you telephoning for?

DOCTOR. Police headquarters. I want to tell them not to send that man over here. We don't want any policemen around here. The ring's been found.

CLUNEY. Better have him over anyway.

DOCTOR. What for?

CLUNEY. To watch me. I'm liable to take something if I'm not watched. Don't you think so?

DOCTOR. But you can't explain his presence in the house. (*In 'phone*) Hello, headquarters, this is Mr. Carr's home. Mr. Cluney 'phoned to you—what? The man's on the way?

CLUNEY. Good!

DOCTOR. Oh, all right, I'll explain to him when he gets here. (*Hangs receiver up. Crosses L. U. for medicine bag and hat*) They've sent a detective, all right. He's on his way here now. I tell you what I'll do. I'll run down to the corner and wait for him and stall him off. We certainly don't want any detective in the house on your wedding day. (*Puts on hat*)

DOOGAN. (*Opens closet door and takes trumpet and bracelet*) I should say not. (*Closes door*)

CLUNEY. What?

DOCTOR. I didn't say anything. (*He exits L. U. E.*)

CLUNEY. (*L. c.*) He didn't say anything. What's the matter with me? Am I beginning to hear things as well as take them?

MADGE. (*Enters from L. c. Takes CLUNEY's hands*) James, the minister is waiting. We're all ready. Come on, dearest.

CLUNEY. Wait, darling.

MADGE. Wait? What for, pet?

CLUNEY. Dr. Willoughby has gone, sweetheart.

MADGE. The best man gone?

CLUNEY. Yes. We can't be married without the best man, can we?

(*CARR crosses from R. to L. and up c. searching himself.*)

MADGE. Well, where did he go, dearest?

CLUNEY. I don't know. Yes, I do, he's gone

across the street and will be back in a moment.

MADGE. Oh, well, then that's all right.

MRS. CARR. (*Enters from L. c., followed by CARR*) William, this is too much. Madge, he's mislaid my ear-trumpet again.

MADGE. (L. c.) Your ear trumpet?

MRS. CARR. (*Center*) Yes, dear. William, what did you do with it? You had it in your hand.

CARR. (*Goes to book case R.*) I put it right here. (*Looks on top of desk*) No. I only thought I did. Now, what did I do with it? (*Down R.*)

MRS. CARR. (*Crosses to CARR*) And, William, the diamond bracelet. You had it in your hand at the same time. What did you do with that?

MADGE. A diamond bracelet, Mother?

(*CLUNEY is in L. corner and CARR R. corner, both searching their pockets.*)

MRS. CARR. Yes, darling, my wedding present to you. What did you do with it, William?

CARR. I don't know, I don't know. Why *will* I be so forgetful?

MRS. CARR. Come, Madge, we'll have to search the house again. Oh, this is awful.

MADGE. Perhaps he left it in his own room, Mother. Have you looked there?

MRS. CARR. (*Goes up C. with MADGE*) No, no. Come, dear we'll go and see.

(*MINISTER and CAROLINE enter L. c.*)

MINISTER. I'm sorry to hurry you folks, but I've another ceremony to perform, so I must hurry.

MRS. CARR. I can't hear a word you are saying. (*Exits L. c., followed by CAROLINE*)

MINISTER. I say, I——

MADGE. We'll be ready in just a few moments.

We've lost a diamond bracelet and we want to find it before the ceremony. (*Exits L. C. CARR is searching right. CLUNEY is searching his pockets, left*)

MINISTER. Something else lost? Gracious, that's too bad! (*C. to CARR*) Have you seen the bracelet, sir?

CARR. No, no!

MINISTER. (*To CLUNEY*) Have you seen it, sir?

CLUNEY. No, that's why I'm looking for it.

MINISTER. Dear, dear, dear, now there will be another postponement. (*Exits L. C.*)

CARR. Strange where those things could have gone to.

CLUNEY. I can't understand it at all. (*Searching in secretary up L.*)

CARR. How long have you been in this room alone?

CLUNEY. Just a few minutes. Why?

CARR. Are you sure you didn't see them?

CLUNEY. Certainly not! Don't you suppose I'd tell you if I had?

CARR. Well, I can swear they were in this room the last time I was here.

CLUNEY. A diamond bracelet and a jewelled ear-trumpet are not the right things to leave lying around loose.

CARR. Has anyone been in here with you?

CLUNEY. Yes, Dr. Willoughby was here.

CARR. Oh, nonsense, he wouldn't take them! (*CLUNEY is still looking*) Anybody else?

CLUNEY. Not that I know of.

CARR. (*Up near c. opening*) Are you sure you didn't see them?

CLUNEY. (*Slams drawer. CARR jumps*) Mr. Carr, what do you mean to insinuate by all this cross-questioning?

CARR. Oh, nothing, nothing. There must be a kleptomaniac in the house. (*Exits L. c.*)

CLUNEY. My Lord, he suspects me! (*Sinks into chair R. DOCTOR enters L. u.*)

DOCTOR. Nobody in sight that looks like a detective to me. (*CLUNEY leaps to his feet*) What's the matter with you?

CLUNEY. (*Brings DOCTOR down c.*) Doctor, come here. There's a diamond bracelet been stolen. I suppose I took it, but I don't remember the slightest thing about it, on my word of honor.

DOCTOR. (*Laughs*) Say, this thing is preying on your mind so——

CLUNEY. No, it was lost here in this room. Everybody is searching for it everywhere and can't find it anywhere.

DOCTOR. A diamond bracelet? That's funny. (*Starts to search*) You say it was lost in this room?

CLUNEY. Yes, and I'm not going to take any more chances. I'm convinced that I have inherited that confounded uncle's "whachamaycallem". I'm going outside to meet that detective, explain my case to him and have him here to watch me.

DOCTOR. But that wouldn't do any good. This is a ridiculous thing. Why——

CLUNEY. I know it's ridiculous. I'm going to get my hat and coat and go out and meet him. (*Starts up c. and meets JOAN coming in from L. c.*)

JOAN. Has anybody found the bracelet?

CLUNEY. No, but I'll find it. I can find anything if I'm only watched. You watch me. (*Exits L. c.*)

JOAN. (*Watches CLUNEY, wondering at his actions. To DOCTOR*) Why, Doctor, what's happened to James?

DOCTOR. Oh, he's all right. He's a little excited, that's all.

JOAN. Such curious disappearances! First the ring, now the bracelet, and Mother can't find her ear-trumpet, either.

DOCTOR. Her ear-trumpet? Is that gone again?

JOAN. Yes, isn't that strange?

CLUNEY. (*Enters c. with hat and coat on*)
Excuse me. (*Crosses to door L. U.*)

JOAN. Where are you going?

CLUNEY. I'm going outside to meet him.

JOAN. To meet whom?

CLUNEY. Dr. Willoughby will tell you. (*To DOCTOR*) You explain it to her.

DOCTOR. But I can't explain.

CLUNEY. Never mind, then make love to her. (*Exits L. U.*)

JOAN. Doesn't he act queer?

DOCTOR. Oh, he'll be all right; he's naturally nervous. His wedding day, you know.

JOAN. Oh, I can hardly wait to see them married.

DOCTOR. I wish it were our wedding day.

JOAN. (*Up c.*) We haven't time to talk about that now.

DOCTOR. But, tell me, don't you?

JOAN. Wait until we find the bracelet. (*Exits L. C.*)

DOCTOR. Now it's up to me to find that bracelet. (*Exits L. C., following JOAN*)

NELL. (*Enters R. C. with bundle of wedding presents. Goes to closet and opens door*) Jack!

DOOGAN. (*Draws back as if to strike, as NELL, opens door, then realizing who it is, speaks after crossing around to L. C.*) Gee, I came near landing on you that time, kid. You want to knock when you come into my room.

NELL. (*R. C.*) Go on, beat it, we'll be nabbed if you don't!

DOOGAN. Not on your life, not on your life!

Not until we get some of this stuff, and judging from these, it's all right, what?

NELL. (*Shows bundle of presents*) Here, grab this and scoot, Jack.

DOOGAN. What is it?

NELL. Jewelry—the wedding presents. (*Both are tying cloth containing presents*)

DOOGAN. Our wedding presents.

NELL. I grabbed them all. Take it on the fly. I'll meet you at the Union depot in thirty minutes.

DOOGAN. Kid, you're a brick. (*Crosses R.*) I wish I could get a crack at that safe before I blow. (*Lays bundle in chair R. of desk*)

NELL. (*At window*) Get back there quick, Jack. Someone is coming.

DOOGAN. (*As he rushes back into closet*) Watch that bundle.

NELL. Sure. (*She busies herself at desk as detective enters through window. From the time she sees the detective she never takes her eyes from him during the entire scene*)

DETECTIVE. (*Enters through window, walks around room staring at NELL, watching her all the time. He then circles back until he is L. C., and she R. C.*) What are you looking at?

NELL. Nothing, sir.

DETECTIVE. Is this the way they generally come into this house, through the window?

NELL. Sometimes, sir.

DETECTIVE. Sometimes? Who are you?

NELL. I'm the lady's maid, sir.

DETECTIVE. Lady's maid? I want to see Mr. Cluney.

NELL. He's out, sir.

DETECTIVE. Out?

NELL. Yes, sir.

DETECTIVE. All right, then I'll wait for him.

NELL. Shall I tell the family you wish to see—?

(DOOGAN opens door a trifle, trying to hear.)

DETECTIVE. (*Interrupts NELL*) No, I don't want to see the family: just Cluney, that's all. You slip him one of these cards when he comes in and tell him I'm waiting in here for him.

NELL. (*Reads card*) Yes, sir. Police headquarters.

DETECTIVE. Uh, huh! (*DOOGAN slams closet door shut*) What's that? (*Jumps up from sofa*)

NELL. What's what?

DETECTIVE. What's that noise?

NELL. Which noise, sir?

DETECTIVE. That! (*Makes peculiar guttural sound as if rattling door*)

NELL. The wind, I guess, sir.

DETECTIVE. The wind, eh? (*Looks closely at her and circles around to right of her*) What's that door?

NELL. Which door?

DETECTIVE. (*Pointing*) The one you're looking at—that door.

NELL. That? Just a door, sir.

DETECTIVE. Just a door, eh? I suppose that's a chair?

NELL. Yes, sir.

DETECTIVE. Anyone in there?

NELL. (*Stutters*) Eh? What, sir?

DETECTIVE. Say, what's the matter with you?

NELL. Nothing, sir.

(DETECTIVE looks at NELL suspiciously, then goes over to closet and opens door. DOOGAN is found in closet with his back to audience. He steps out.)

DOOGAN. Hello.

DETECTIVE. Hello, what are you doing in that closet?

DOOGAN. I was just hanging up my coat.

DETECTIVE. Hanging up your coat, eh? Who are you?

DOOGAN. Huh?

DETECTIVE. Who are you?

NELL. Oh, this is Mr. Cluney, sir. The gentleman you asked to see.

(DOOGAN *snaps fingers*. DETECTIVE *turns and almost catches him*.)

DETECTIVE. Are you Mr. Cluney?

(NELL *is pantomiming to DOOGAN that the man is a detective*. DOOGAN *watches her, but is unable to understand what she means*.)

DOOGAN. (To NELL) Huh? (To DETECTIVE) I mean ugh!

DETECTIVE. Are you Cluney?

DOOGAN. Yes. Are you the detective I sent for?

DETECTIVE. I'm from headquarters. Are you Cluney?

DOOGAN. Yes. (DETECTIVE *slams closet door shut*) Don't!

DETECTIVE. (To DOOGAN) Excuse me. (*Crosses to NELL*) You said Cluney was out.

DOOGAN. (*Crosses to detective*) Yes, I told her to say that. Sh! Look here, I've got a big case for you. Sh! (*All turn right*) But you've got to keep it quiet.

NELL. Sh! (*All turn left*)

DOOGAN. Now, listen, I want you to sneak out of this house without anyone seeing you and come back in an hour. (DETECTIVE *looks at NELL and then at DOOGAN*) It's a mysterious case.

DETECTIVE. Eh?

DOOGAN. I can't tell you what it is now, but you run on, sneak out and be back in an hour.

DETECTIVE. What the he—? What's this all about, anyway?

DOOGAN. Please do as I say or you'll spoil your chances of unravelling this mystery. It's a secret case.

DETECTIVE. Oh, I see. (*Points to NELL*)

DOOGAN. Yes, the only witness. Go on, do as I tell you: sneak out and be back in an hour.

NELL. Don't be late, sir. Be back in one hour and we'll catch them sure.

DETECTIVE. (*Interested*) Them? Is there more than one?

DOOGAN. Yes, sure: two of them. Better bring an assistant along. Don't forget: one hour.

DETECTIVE. I'll be here. (*Starts L. DOOGAN goes up c., motioning NELL to take detective off R. U.*)

NELL. Better come this way, sir—the back door through the kitchen. Some of the family might see you. But be very quiet. (*DETECTIVE starts. NELL and DOOGAN motion for him to be quiet. NELL tiptoes toward door R., detective following in like manner*)

DOOGAN and NELL. Sh!

DOOGAN. (*To detective*) Are you a good detective?

DETECTIVE. Good?

DOOGAN. Sh!

DETECTIVE. I'm the best detective in the State of Rhode Island. (*Exits R. U. E. NELL and DOOGAN exchange significant looks, then NELL exits R. U. E.*)

DOOGAN. (*Goes to safe*) Gee, that was a close shave! (*He watches them cross to safe*) Oh, you

baby, it's open! (NELL enters. DOOGAN falls flat on floor)

NELL. It's all right, Jack. (*While DOOGAN is going thru safe, NELL watches all doors, and at last the window left*)

DOOGAN. I thought it was that good detective again. (*Takes papers from safe*) Steel common—steel common—I'm no piker: I couldn't! (*Puts them back in safe*) Steel bonds—I'll tear the coupons off; I can use them. (*Puts coupons in pocket*) Gee, a sunburst! A bird, too.

NELL. How did you get into it, Jack?

DOOGAN. It was open. Look at this sunburst.

NELL. (*At window*) Gee! Quick, Jack, someone's coming!

DOOGAN. Maybe I can make it. (*Picks up bundle, starts to run, and meets CLUNEY, who enters thru window* L. DOOGAN is R. C. NELL is L. of CLUNEY) Hello.

CLUNEY. (L. c.) Hello, who might you be?

DOOGAN. I might be——

NELL. This gentleman said he was telephoned for. Here's his card.

DOOGAN. (*Aside*) She's a bird.

CLUNEY. What?

DOOGAN. I didn't say anything.

CLUNEY. He didn't say anything. (*Looking at card. DOOGAN pantomimes to NELL. NELL pantomimes, "yes"*)

DOOGAN. Are you Mr. Cluneey?

NELL. Yes, sir.

CLUNEY. (*Reading card*) Oh, Police Headquarters. I've just been outside looking for you. Just excuse me a moment, I want to have a word with this girl. (*Turns to NELL*) I wonder if I can trust you?

NELL. Oh, sir!

CLUNEY. You see, this gentleman is a detective and I don't want a word said about his being here.

(DOOGAN *places bundle on chair L. of desk.*)

NELL. You may depend on me, sir.

CLUNEY. You see, there are some things missing around here, and this gentleman has come over to investigate.

NELL. Do they think the things were stolen, sir?

CLUNEY. Yes.

NELL. And do they suspect anyone, sir?

CLUNEY. Well, I think that I—No—I don't know. You see there's a diamond bracelet and a jewelled ear-trumpet missing, and everybody is searching for them everywhere.

(DOOGAN *slips ear-trumpet and bracelet into CLUNEY'S pocket.*)

NELL. You don't say so, sir!

CLUNEY. I don't want you to say a word about this gentleman being a detective.

NELL. No, sir.

CLUNEY. Take that. (*Gives NELL money*)

NELL. Thank you.

CLUNEY. Perhaps you will find some more where that came from. Now you may go.

NELL. Yes, sir. (*Crosses to DOOGAN*) Shall I take your things, sir? (*Picks up bundle*)

DOOGAN. If you don't mind, my good girl. (*To CLUNEY*) Just a few presents I was taking home when I was detained here.

CLUNEY. Put them where nobody can get them.

NELL. You can leave that to me, sir. (*Exit L. c., closing doors*)

CLUNEY. Now, listen, this is a peculiar case. I'll explain in a few words. I'm a kleptomaniac.

DOOGAN. Klepto—what?

CLUNEY. Maniac!

DOOGAN. You're a maniac?

CLUNEY. No, no, a kleptomaniac. That's worse, I steal things, but I do so unconsciously.

DOOGAN. Can you get away with it?

CLUNEY. Well, I have. I got away with a diamond bracelet and a jewelled ear-trumpet.

DOOGAN. The hell you did!

CLUNEY. Funny part of it is I don't know what I've done with them.

DOOGAN. I'll be damned!

CLUNEY. I only found this out ten minutes ago. My doctor discovered it.

DOOGAN. Looney!

CLUNEY. CluneY, that's right, CluneY. I'll tell you what I want you to do: I want you to stay right here and watch me. Will you do that?

DOOGAN. Sure I will.

CLUNEY. For Heaven's sake, don't let me take anything!

DOOGAN. Not if I see it first.

CLUNEY. Splendid. Now, I'll introduce you to the family as an old friend of mine. Let's see, your name is——? (*Starts for card*)

DOOGAN. Never mind that card. Call me anything—call me Doogan, Jack Doogan.

CLUNEY. Doogan—all right. Now, another thing—this is my wedding day, and you are here to attend the ceremony. Do you follow me?

DOOGAN. Sure. I'll follow you all over the house.

CLUNEY. That's the idea.

DOOGAN. That's funny—this is my wedding day, too.

CLUNEY. Is it?

DOOGAN. Yes.

CLUNEY. You don't find yourself taking things unconsciously, do you?

DOOGAN. I never take things unconsciously.

CLUNEY. It seems I do.

DOOGAN. Gee, what an alibi!

CLUNEY. Huh?

DOOGAN. Huh? I didn't say anything.

CLUNEY. He didn't say anything.

DOOGAN. You mean to say you take things without knowing you do it?

CLUNEY. Evidently.

DOOGAN. Look here, if anything is lost they won't blame it on me, will they?

CLUNEY. Now, don't you worry about that, I'll——

DOOGAN. Gee, what a cinch!

CLUNEY. I'm afraid I'm going to be a very hard case for you.

DOOGAN. Hard? You're the softest case I ever struck.

CLUNEY. You mean to say there are others like me?

DOOGAN. The penitentiary is full of them. (*Voices are heard off-stage*) I know a place to hide. (*Starts for closet*)

CLUNEY. (*Taking DOOGAN L.*) Hush, here's the family—change the subject. (*Shakes DOOGAN's hand and laughs*) Well, well, Jack, I'm awfully glad you're here. Just in time to see your old pal married—just in time.

DOOGAN. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. (*The DOCTOR, MR. and MRS. CARR, MADGE, CAROLINE, JOAN and minister enter and see greeting between DOOGAN and CLUNEY. DOOGAN is L. of CLUNEY. DOCTOR drops down to L. corner. All others line up in the order in which they are introduced, from L. C. to R. of corner*).

MADGE. Come, James. We've given up the search for the bracelet. The minister insists that the ceremony be performed at once.

MINISTER. Yes, I must get away.

CLUNEY. Yes, yes, but first I want to introduce my old friend Mr. Jack Doogan. My wife-to-be—her mother—her sister, her other sister—the minister who's going to do it—her father, and Dr. Willoughby.

DOOGAN. (*Turns L. to DOCTOR*) How are you?

DOCTOR. Who is he?

CLUNEY. (*Aside to DOCTOR*) The detective.

DOOGAN. (*To MADGE*) Tickled to death.

MADGE. I'm so glad, Mr. Doogan. This is my mother.

DOOGAN. (*Crosses to MRS. CARR and offers hand, which she ignores*) How are you, mother?

MADGE. She's a little deaf.

DOOGAN. She's blind too, ain't she? (*Crosses to JOAN*) Hello, cutey!

CAROLINE. My name's Caroline.

DOOGAN. Good-morning, Carrie. (*Crosses to MINISTER*) Well, how's the Dominie? (*Shakes hands with CARR*) What's the matter, did you break your wrist? Well, now that I've met everybody, I feel right at home. (*Crosses c. to MADGE*)

MADGE. So you're an old friend of Mr. Cluney's?

DOOGAN. (*Crosses to CLUNEY*) Yes, we're college chums, ain't we, Looney?

ALL. Looney?

CLUNEY. (*L. to DOOGAN*) Cluney, Cluney. (*To others*) Looney—that's the nickname I had when we were at college.

MRS. CARR. (*R. c.*) It's most annoying, James, I can't hear a word without my ear-trumpet.

CLUNEY. (*Crosses to MRS. CARR and finds trumpet in his pocket*) Good Lord!

MRS. CARR. My ear-trumpet.

ALL. Her ear-trumpet!

CLUNEY. Her ear-trumpet.

DOOGAN. (*Crosses to CLUNEY*) I got you: a class in English!

MRS. CARR. (*Takes trumpet*) James, what is the meaning of this?

CLUNEY. I don't know.

DOOGAN. I can explain—it's a joke.

ALL. A joke!

DOOGAN. Yes, steal something from your mother-in-law on your wedding day; good luck. (*Laughs and slaps MADGE on the back*) I beg your pardon, I beg your pardon, I thought it was him. (*Crosses L.*)

CLUNEY. It's a superstition.

MADGE. (*To CLUNEY*) You mean you took it on account of a superstition.

CLUNEY. Yes, yes, that's it. (*Forces laugh*)

MRS. CARR. Well, I don't see anything very funny about it at all.

CLUNEY. No.

MRS. CARR. No.

CLUNEY. Perhaps you are right. (*Ladies go up c. with minister*)

CARR. (*To CLUNEY*) What did you want with the bracelet?

CLUNEY. The bracelet? I didn't take the bracelet.

CARR. Oh, excuse me, I thought you did.

MINISTER. You'll have to hurry, good people, I've another appointment.

ALL. Yes, yes, come on, come, etc., etc. (*All exit, L. C., except CLUNEY and DOOGAN*)

CLUNEY. Go right along, we'll be there directly.

CARR. (*In doorway just as he exits*) Funny what became of that bracelet! (*Exits*)

CLUNEY. (*To DOOGAN*) How the devil did that trumpet get into my pocket?

DOOGAN. Don't try to kid me. You must have put it there.

CLUNEY. What if the bracelet should turn up the same way? (*Feels in pocket and finds it*) Good Lord, here it is!

DOOGAN. Keno.

CLUNEY. What'll I do with it?

DOOGAN. Give it to me, I'll take care of it; that's what I'm here for. (*Takes bracelet from CLUNEY*)

CLUNEY. Thanks.

DOOGAN. Don't mention it.

CLUNEY. (*Taking off overcoat*) Hold on, this coat wasn't in this room when the bracelet was lost. It was hanging in the clothes-press outside. What do you make of that?

DOOGAN. Don't make anything of it. Come on, let's get in before they suspect us.

CLUNEY. You'll stick by me, won't you?

DOOGAN. Sure thing.

CLUNEY. I'll make it worth your while.

DOOGAN. You bet you will.

(*Voices are heard.*)

CLUNEY. What's that?

DOOGAN. Sounds like a riot.

CLUNEY. Look out for my father-in-law, he suspects me.

DOOGAN. That will help some. (*DOOGAN is up c. CLUNEY is down R. MADGE enters and meets them as they are about to exit*)

MADGE. (*Down R. to CLUNEY*) James, James! (*All enter, following MADGE*)

CLUNEY. (*To MADGE, who is gasping*) What is it, dear? (*To MRS. CARR, who is gasping*) What's happened? (*Crosses to CARR who is gasping*) In the name of Heaven, what's wrong?

DOCTOR. (*Left*) The house has been robbed.

ALL. *Robbed!*

DOOGAN. (*Down L. of CLUNEY*) Robbed!

CLUNEY. What's gone now?

MADGE. All my beautiful wedding presents.

CARR. Everybody in the house must be searched.

CLUNEY. (*Aside to DOOGAN*) Hide the bracelet—hide it.

(DOOGAN *puts bracelet in CARR's pocket. All must be turned so as not to see this business.*)

MINISTER. (*Center*) That's a good idea. Everybody must be searched. Am I suspected?

DOOGAN. What do you think?

ALL. No, no!

MINISTER. Then I'll return later, just as soon as I perform the other ceremony. (*Crosses L. U.*)

ALL. But the wedding—please don't go, (*Etc., etc.*)

MINISTER. I'll be back within an hour. My engagement is an important one. (*Exits L. U.*)

CLUNEY. (*Down L. c.*) He's gone!

DOCTOR. (*Left*) He'll be back.

MADGE. Oh, who could have stolen my beautiful wedding presents?

JOAN. (*To MRS. CARR who is back of desk*) Mother, do you suppose the maid could have——?

DOOGAN. (*Center*) Are there any new servants in the house?

MRS. CARR. Yes, the new maid.

DOOGAN. What's her name?

MADGE. Her name is Nell.

NELL. (*Overhears, and comes down R. c.*) Yes, Ma'am, did you call me?

MADGE. Why, yes, that is, I——

DOOGAN. Is this girl a suspicious character?

MADGE. Not exactly suspicious, but——

MRS. CARR. She's a strange girl——

DOOGAN. (*To NELL*) Let me look at your eyes. (*Looks at her eyes*) They're beautiful eyes. Let me see your hands. (*Looks at her hands*) Not a line of crime—nothing but innocence, simplicity and honesty. I'll stake my life on her. I've made a study of criminals for years, haven't I, Cluney?

CLUNEY. Oh, yes, for years and years.

CARR. A detective?

DOOGAN. In self-defense. (*Takes NELL up center*) I'm very much obliged to you. Hope I may be able to do as much for you some day. Keep your eyes open and you may be able to relieve the family of a great deal.

NELL. Thank you, sir. (*Exits L. C.*)

DOOGAN. (*DOOGAN is C. Women are R. Three men are L.*) Now that we have cleared the maid we won't have to go over that ground again! How about the other ladies—are they above suspicion?

MEN. Certainly!

DOOGAN. Then it's up to us four.

DOCTOR. What!

DOOGAN. Does anyone care to search me? No? Very well. (*To men*) Have you any objections to my searching you?

ALL. What!

DOCTOR. This is an insult!

DOOGAN. Merely a matter of form. I thought we had all agreed?

CARR. I'm willing.

DOCTOR. Go ahead, but it's all rot.

(*DOOGAN searches the DOCTOR.*)

MRS. CARR. You seem expert in that line.

DOOGAN. I've been the subject often enough—

MRS. CARR. Subject?

DOOGAN. Of praise for skill. Next. (*Searches CLUNEY*) Nothing. (*CARR comes forward. DOOGAN looks at him*) I can't do it. (*To MRS. CARR*) Mrs. Mother, will you kindly see if Father's pockets are empty? (*Crosses L.*)

MRS. CARR. Perfectly ridiculous!

CARR. Merely as a matter of form!

MRS. CARR. Oh, very well. (*Goes to CARR, feels in his pockets and then screams*) My smelling salts! (*She exits, followed by girls. CARR puts his hand in his pocket, feels bracelet, and exits on run, c.*)

DOCTOR. (*DOOGAN crosses to L. corner. CLUNEY goes up c. DOCTOR, L. c., to CLUNEY*) Do you suppose the bracelet was in the old man's pocket?

DOOGAN. What do you think?

CLUNEY. (*To DOOGAN*) Was it?

DOOGAN. Sure.

DOCTOR. How did it get there?

CLUNEY. (*To DOOGAN*) You put it there.

DOOGAN. Certainly. You didn't want them to find it on me, did you?

DOCTOR. (*To CLUNEY*) Where did you get it?

DOOGAN. From him. (*Points to CLUNEY*)

DOCTOR. Where did you get it?

CLUNEY. I don't know. Oh, Doctor, it's true, it's true. I'm a kleptomaniac. (*Goes over to R. corner, DOOGAN meets DOCTOR*)

DOCTOR. There, there, now, forget it. (*To DOOGAN*) Sad case.

DOOGAN. (*Aside*) I should say so.

CLUNEY. My Lord, the safe is open. I wonder if the bonds are there! (*Opens safe and searches*) Here they are.

(*DOOGAN looks in pocket to see if he has the bonds.*)

DOCTOR. (*CLUNEY hands him stock*) These are not the bonds. This is the common stock Mr. Carr spoke about.

CLUNEY. So it is. Well, where are the bonds? They're gone—and the sunburst, that's gone, too? (*Turns and looks at DOCTOR wild-eyed*)

DOCTOR. Well, close the safe, they'll think we took it.

DOOGAN. (*Crosses L.*) Yes, close the safe, they'll think we took it.

DOCTOR. (*Handing stock to CLUNEY*) Here, put these back.

(*CARR enters from L. C.*)

CLUNEY. Too late! (*He closes safe. CLUNEY and the DOCTOR surreptitiously hand stock back and forth from one to the other*)

CARR. Doctor, Doctor, come to my wife, quickly!

DOCTOR. What's the matter?

CARR. She's having hysterics. I'm afraid she's going to faint.

DOCTOR. I'll have to get into my bag for some ammonia and brandy. It's out in the hall.

CARR. Hurry, please.

DOCTOR. (*To CLUNEY*) I'll slip these into the safe on the way back. Get him out of the room.

CLUNEY. I will.

(*DOCTOR exits L. U.*)

MADGE. (*Enters*) Come, James, please, Mother's terribly ill. (*She exits*)

CLUNEY. Yes, yes, dear, right away. (*To DOOGAN*) Come on, Doogan, don't leave me. Stick to me—don't leave me. (*Exits c., pulling DOOGAN after him*)

CARR. (*Crosses down R. then stops a second*) That safe is open again. I must lock it. So careless of me—horribly careless. (*Locks safe*)

JOAN. (*Enters from L. C.*) Come, Father, Mother is calling for you. She's having hysterics. (*Exits*)

CARR. Yes, I'm coming. (*Exits on run*)

DOCTOR. (*Enters from L. U.*) That damn common stock. I must get that back in the safe before

it's found on me. (*Kneels at safe, trying to open it. He puts medicine case on chair L. of table*)
What's wrong? Good Heavens, it's locked! (*All enter and catch him at safe*)

MRS. CARR. Dr. Willoughby, what are you doing at that safe?

ALL. Oh, Doctor!

(DOCTOR *grotesquely* poking bonds up under coat tails.)

Curtain

ACT II

AT RISE: *All discovered in same positions as at end of ACT I curtain.*

DR. WILLOUGHBY *right of desk*; MRS. CARR, *left of desk*; MR. CARR, *left of MRS. CARR*. MADGE *left of MR. CARR*; JOAN and CAROLINE *back of desk*, CLUNEY *left center*. DOOGAN *left*.

MRS. CARR. Now, Dr. Willoughby, what were you doing at that safe?

DOCTOR. I—I was seeing if it was locked. (*Stammers*)

CARR. What right have you fooling around my safe?

MRS. CARR. Hush, William! Now, Dr. Willoughby, kindly explain, if you please.

DOCTOR. I—well—you see—James.

(CLUNEY *gesticulates frantically to DOCTOR to keep quiet. All turn and look at CLUNEY. He is in repose. All then turn and look at the DOCTOR.*)

MRS. CARR. Well, well?

DOCTOR. You had better let James explain. (*All turn and look at CLUNEY*),

MRS. CLUNEY. What has James got to do with it?

CLUNEY. Nothing—nothing.

MRS. CARR. Then what does Dr. Willoughby mean by asking you to explain?

CLUNEY. I beg your pardon.

MRS. CARR. What does Dr. Willoughby mean by asking you to explain?

CLUNEY. Oh, that's a little way he has. You see, he thought when things began to hide themselves surreptitiously about the house—he thought there must be a thief in the house.

MRS. CARR. Well?

CLUNEY. Well, you see his thinking that made me think that I—(*Turns to DOOGAN*) You tell them.

DOOGAN. Go on, you're doing fine.

CLUNEY. Am I?

DOOGAN. Sure.

CLUNEY. All right, then I'll go ahead with it. You see, it's like this: Mr. Doogan is not really a friend, he's more of a guest. No, he's not exactly a guest, he's more of a friend. No, that isn't quite what I mean, either. You see, it's like this: I asked him here to the wedding, and, well, here he is.

MRS. CARR. What has all that to do with Dr. Willoughby being at our safe?

CLUNEY. Ah, that's just what I am getting at. He's a detective.

MRS. CARR. Dr. Willoughby a detective? (*All turn and looks at DOCTOR*)

CLUNEY. No, no, Mr. Doogan—he's a detective. (*All looks at DOOGAN*)

CARR. (*Crosses to CLUNEY*) What's a detective doing in my house?

CLUNEY. He's here to watch me—no, to watch—to watch—

MRS. CARR. Watch what? Whom?

CLUNEY. Ah, ha, that's it—that's what we want to know.

CARR. Now that he is here, what is he going to do?

DOOGAN. (*Crosses to MRS. CARR*) If you put it up to me, I propose that we close up the joint.

MRS. CARR. Joint!

DOOGAN. (*Coughs*) House—and not allow anyone to come in until a thorough search has been made.

CLUNEY. There you are.

DOCTOR. Yes, that's the thing to do.

MRS. CARR. I am still in the dark as to what you were doing at that safe.

NELL. (*Enters from door left upper*) Excuse me, Dr. Willoughby.

DOCTOR. Yes, what is it?

NELL. An automobile at the door for you, sir. The gentleman said you should hurry, sir.

DOCTOR. Who is it?

NELL. He said his name was Works.

DOCTOR. Works?

NELL. He said to tell you it was on the way, that you'd understand.

DOCTOR. Good Lord, the baby! I've got to go. Where's my instrument case?

ALL. (*General movement. All search for case, MRS. CARR comes down L. of CARR*) His instrument case!

CARR. (*L. C. Has picked up case absent-mindedly from chair L. of desk*) Where did you put it?

MRS. CARR. William, dear!

CARR. (*Hands case to DOCTOR*) Why will I be so absent-minded!

DOCTOR. (*Crosses to L. U. door*) I'm sorry—I've got to rush. Remember, Doogan, the case is entirely in your hands.

DOOGAN. (*Back of desk*) Leave it to me, leave it to me.

DOCTOR. I'll hurry back. (*Exits L. U. E.*)

CLUNEY. (*Up R., yells after DOCTOR*) What about the wedding?

CAROLINE. (*Up L.*) We won't have any best man.

JOAN. (*Up L.*) Yes, what if the minister arrives while he is away?

MRS. CARR. (*Up L. C.*) The minister will have to wait.

MADGE. (*Over to CLUNEY*) Oh, James, this is terrible!

CLUNEY. (*Up R.*) There, there, dear, it will come out all right. Everything will be all right.

(*MADGE weeps on his shoulder. DOOGAN stares at CARR.*)

CARR. (*Aside to MRS. CARR. Down L. C.*) Mother, mother!

MRS. CARR. (*Down L. of CARR, aside*) What?

CARR. Why does the detective keep looking at me?

MRS. CARR. (*Aside*) Is he watching you now?

CARR. (*Looking cautiously at DOOGAN—aside*) Yes.

MRS. CARR. Oh, Lord!

DOOGAN. (*C. to NELL, who starts to go L. U.*) Wait a minute, my girl. Don't leave this room. (*CARR starts to exit thru window*) I don't want anyone to leave this room until I've said a few things.

CLUNEY. (*Over to R. of DOOGAN, aside*) What are you going to do?

DOOGAN. (*Aside*) Sh! (*Aloud*) Ladies and gentlemen, if I am to take charge of this case, let's be perfectly honest with each other and tell me ex-

actly what's missing. (*Takes pad and pencil from pocket.* JOAN and CAROLINE come L. of DOOGAN. MADGE down R. CLUNEY R. C. and MR. and MRS. CARR L.)

JOAN. All the wedding presents.

DOOGAN. (*Writes*) All the wedding presents.

CAROLINE. No, no, the bracelet was found.

MR. and MRS. CARR. (*Trying to quiet her*)
Hush!

(JOAN and CAROLINE go up-stage to sofa.)

DOOGAN. Where was the bracelet found?

CLUNEY. (*Right of DOOGAN—aside*) You put it in the old man's pocket yourself.

DOOGAN. (*Aside*) I know. (*CLUNEY retires R. in confusion*) Where was the bracelet found?

MRS. CARR. We found the bracelet on the stairs.

DOOGAN. (*Looks at MRS. CARR significantly, then writes*) "Bracelet found on the stairs."

NELL. (*L. of DOOGAN*) May I go now, sir? I have some work to do?

DOOGAN. Just a moment, my good girl. I may need you. (*NELL retires up L.*) Now, I think it would be a good idea to give me an account of the valuable articles you have here in the house and tell me exactly where you keep them.

MRS. CARR. What!

DOOGAN. So that I can make out an account list, and then it will be possible for me to take an invoice and we will know exactly where we stand. (*MR. and MRS. CARR sit on sofa L. and CAROLINE comes to L. of DOOGAN, MADGE R. of him. All start to speak at once*) One at a time, one at a time—don't crowd, ladies. (*To ladies*) I'll take your things first.

JOAN. Well, there's my jewel case in the bottom of my steamer trunk.

DOOGAN. (*Writes*) Jewel case in steamer trunk. Is the trunk open?

JOAN. No, here's the key. (*Hands him key*)

DOOGAN. Much obliged.

JOAN. That's all right. (*Sits on sofa beside Mr. and Mrs. Carr*)

DOOGAN. (*To CAROLINE who is R. of him*) Now, I'll take yours.

CAROLINE. All my winter furs, sealskins and sables, are in my dressing closet.

DOOGAN. (*Writes*) Steal-skins and sables in dressing closet. Have you the key to the closet?

CAROLINE. The key to the closet is in Joan's steamer trunk, and you have the key to the trunk. (*Retires up right*)

DOOGAN. Yes. Next!

MADGE. (*Comes right of DOOGAN*) I have about four thousand dollars in cash hidden in the linen closet on the floor under the rug.

DOOGAN. (*Staggered at the amount*) Four thousand?

MADGE. Four thousand.

DOOGAN. (*Writes*) Four thousand dollars under rug in linen closet.

MADGE. Thank you.

DOOGAN. Thank you! Next!

(MADGE *retires up right.*)

MRS. CARR. (*Left of DOOGAN*) Some valuable papers and a diamond sunburst in the safe.

DOOGAN. I got that. This safe? (*Points to safe R.*)

MRS. CARR. Yes.

DOOGAN. Whose safe is that?

CARR. (*Seated on sofa L.*) Mine.

DOOGAN. Who in this house knows the combination of the safe?

MRS. CARR. I do.

DOOGAN. Who else? (*No answer*) Doesn't Mr. Carr know the combination of his own safe?

CARR. (*Rises and goes to L. of DOOGAN*) Yes. James knows it, too.

CLUNEY. (*R. of DOOGAN*) No, I don't.

CARR. I gave it to you a while ago.

CLUNEY. I know, but I've forgotten it.

DOOGAN. Why did you give him the combination?

CARR. He asked me for it.

CLUNEY. No, sir, he forced it on me.

DOOGAN. Then he did give it to you?

CLUNEY. No. That is—yes—no.

DOOGAN. Yes, or no, which is it?

CLUNEY. I don't know.

DOOGAN. That makes it simple. (*Looks at CARR. Writes*) Mr. Carr knows combination of safe, very well. Now I will have to ask you folks to stay in the other part of the house while I take charge of the main part. (*All are left of stage except CLUNEY, who is down right as DOOGAN crosses to R. U. door*) Now if you will please step into this room for about ten minutes, when you come out you'll know exactly what's gone. (*Opens door right*) This way, please. (*Holds door open. No one moves. All are L. as DOOGAN is R.*)

MRS. CARR. (*Goes to girls up-stage*) We'll do nothing of the kind.

MADGE. I never heard of such a thing.

CAROLINE. Ridiculous!

(*DOOGAN is watching CARR, who is down L. C. DOOGAN is R. C.*)

CARR. Mother, mother!

MRS. CARR. (*L. of CARR*) What is it, dear?

CARR. Mother, he's looking at me again.

MRS. CARR. (*Aside*) You imagine it.

(DOOGAN motions to CLUNEY to get the people out of room.)

CLUNEY. (*Up right*) I think we'd better do as the detective tells us.

MADGE. But, James—

DOOGAN. (R. c.) Oh, very well, if you don't want me on the case I'll go back to headquarters. (*Aside to CLUNEY*) Go on, get them out of the room.

CLUNEY. Please—the detective knows best. Let's do as he says. Come on. (*Stands in doorway R. U. and lets others pass*)

MRS. CARR. (*As she exits*) But I never heard of such a thing!

JOAN. (*As she exits*) Lord, I hope my jewels are safe.

CAROLINE. (*As she exits*) This is preposterous!

MADGE. (*To CLUNEY at door*) Oh, James, this is awful!

(*As CARR starts to exit, DOOGAN intercepts him, and he nervously moves down left.*)

CLUNEY. (R. of DOOGAN—to him) What are you going to do?

DOOGAN. Give the maid the third degree. I'll protect you, all right, all right. See what I did for you about the safe!

CLUNEY. You're a genius, that's what you are, a genius! (*Exits R. U. E.*)

CARR. (*Over to DOOGAN*) Why do you stare at me like that?

DOOGAN. (*Showing CARR list*) Because the bracelet was found on the stairs.

CARR. (*Looks at list*) Oh, yes. (*As DOOGAN*

continues staring at him, CARR makes a nervous hasty exit R. U. E. DOOGAN *locks door*)

NELL. (*Crosses to DOOGAN c.*) What are you going to do now, Jack?

DOOGAN. (*Kissing her*) I am going to give you the third degree. If there's a God for thieves he's certainly good to us. This guy's a kleptomaniac and he's got himself framed for a thief.

NELL. Which one?

DOOGAN. Cluney. He's hired me to watch him. You heard the layout just now?

NELL. Did I? Four thousand dollars under the rug in the linen closet!

DOOGAN. You get that. And here's the key to the steamer trunk—get the jewel case and what furs you can handle.

NELL. (*Both are up near c. doors*) I got you, and then we'll make a quick getaway.

DOOGAN. Sure. Get a suit-case to put them wedding presents in.

NELL. Don't forget the sunburst in the safe.

DOOGAN. I got that.

NELL. Good! And you'll keep them in there, Jack?

DOOGAN. Sure—clean up.

NELL. Just leave it to me.

DOOGAN. Now, for God's sake, don't leave anything on you. If the police should come and search—that reminds me!

NELL. What is it, Jack?

DOOGAN. I forgot—I've got to get rid of these bonds. (*Sees chocolate-pot on table* R. U.) What's this?

NELL. Chocolate pot.

DOOGAN. Good, I'll stick them in there, and I hope they hate chocolate like I do. (*Mrs. CARR bangs on door* R. U.—*To* NELL) See how fast you can work. (*NELL exits c., closing doors.* DOOGAN

opens door R. U. and MRS. CARR enters and crosses to L. C.)

MRS. CARR. Really, Mr. Doogan, I don't understand your locking that door.

DOOGAN. (*Crosses to MRS. CARR*) Perhaps not now, but you will understand it bye and bye.

MRS. CARR. I hope so. Now, listen, I've got something to tell you. I don't think these things have really been stolen. I think they've only been mislaid, that's all. I suspect someone of hiding them, unconscious of the fact; but he doesn't exactly steal things, he just mislays them, that's all.

DOOGAN. I know, you mean Mr. Cluney.

MRS. CARR. Cluney? Good gracious, no! My husband!

DOOGAN. Your husband? God, there's two of them!

MRS. CARR. What's that?

DOOGAN. (*In ear-trumpet*) I say it's too bad.

MRS. CARR. Yes, too bad. He's just as innocent as a babe in arms.

DOOGAN. I'm glad you told me this, Mrs. Carr; it will make it easier for me.

MRS. CARR. Mr. Doogan, now I know you are a detective, I want you to promise me that you won't send in an alarm to police headquarters. If this story should get about it would simply ruin us—you understand?

DOOGAN. I got you.

MRS. CARR. Then you will treat this as absolutely confidential?

DOOGAN. Oh, absolutely.

MRS. CARR. You will keep everything to yourself?

DOOGAN. (*Crosses L.*) Sure, I'll keep everything myself.

MRS. CARR. (*Up R. at door*) Now, Mr. Doogan, on your word of honor you won't call in the police?

DOOGAN. (*Up c.*) Take it from me, whatever happens, I won't call in the police.

MRS. CARR. Oh, my pet chocolate set. I'll hide it in the pantry before it disappears with the rest of the things. (*Exits R. u. with tray containing chocolate-set*)

DOOGAN. (*Locks door*) Now, I'll have to steal these bonds all over again. (*Laughs and crosses down R.*) Two of them in the same house. I'm the head-keeper in a lunatic asylum. This is the limit. (*NELL enters carrying suit-case with presents. Both come c.*) Are you all set?

NELL. Sure. I've got all the stuff in here. Now don't let's take any wild chances. Hurry!

DOOGAN. How will you make your getaway?

NELL. I'll be all right. I'll meet you at the Turk's Head in ten minutes. I want to grab me a sealskin before I leave. Go on, beat it. (*Up R.*)

DOOGAN. (*Starts L. u.*) Turk's Head in ten minutes. Don't forget.

NELL. I won't!

(DOOGAN starts for door L., when door-bell rings.)

DOOGAN. Someone at the door.

NELL. Out the window—quick!

DOOGAN. (*Starts, then stops suddenly*) Hold on, it may be a cop. That doctor may have mis-trusted, after all. Where can I plant this for a minute?

NELL. (*Points to closet right*) Over there.

DOOGAN. No, not in that closet.

NELL. (*Points to closet in hall c.*) In that closet out there in the hall.

DOOGAN. (*Goes up c. NELL goes to L. u. door*) Good! (*Bell rings*) See who it is.

NELL. Shall I let them in?

DOOGAN. No, but see who it is. (*NELL exits door*)

L. DOOGAN *rushes up-stage and puts suit-case in closet in hall, then returns R. C. and listens*)

JAMISON. (*Off-stage*) But I must see him at once. It's a matter of the utmost importance. It's imperative that I see him without delay.

NELL. (*Off-stage*) I'm sorry, sir, but it's impossible.

JAMISON. (*Enters L. U., NELL following*) Impossible! Rot, nonsense! I must see him—I will see him, at once. Now, this minute. (*Comes c. and meets DOOGAN*)

DOOGAN. (R. C.) Who do you want to see?

JAMISON. (C. NELL is L. C.) Who are you?

DOOGAN. Who are you?

JAMISON. My name's Jamison. I want to see Mr. Carr at once.

DOOGAN. What about?

JAMISON. Business.

DOOGAN. What business?

JAMISON. None of your business. Who are you?

DOOGAN. I'm the new secretary.

JAMISON. No, no, you won't do. (*To NELL*) Where's Mr. Carr?

NELL. (L. C.) He's out, sir.

JAMISON. Out, out, out! Then someone, anyone, so long as it's a member of the family. Tell them Mr. Jamison is here.

NELL. They're all out, sir.

JAMISON. All out? This is a very urgent matter. Where did they go? (*Knocking is heard at door R. U.*) What's that? What's that? What's that? (*DOOGAN knocks on desk to drown noise.*)
JAMISON *unlocks door R. U.*)

CARR. I thought I heard your voice.

JAMISON. What's the matter with you? Why are you locked in that room? (*Crosses L. C. to NELL*) What did you mean by telling me he was out?

DOOGAN. (*Up R. To CARR*) I tried to keep him out.

JAMISON. Anything wrong?

CARR. (*Front of desk*) No. What do you want?

(*DOOGAN is back of desk.*)

JAMISON. (*Center*) What do I want? I want to give you the good news! I put through the deal I told you of. I've come to redeem the notes. See here. (*Shows money*) Money, real money, with which to pay you. I've got the exact amount right here. I want the steel stock certificates at once. (*As JAMISON shows money DOOGAN motions to NELL to get it. DOOGAN crosses at back to down left*)

CARR. Steel stock certificates?

JAMISON. The stock I gave you as security. Hurry, please. I've no time to lose.

CARR. (*Excitedly*) Yes, yes. (*To door R. U. and calls*) Mother, mother, good news, good news. Jamison is here to redeem his notes.

(*JAMISON puts wallet in down-stage pocket of overcoat. NELL picks it out and gives money to DOOGAN. DOOGAN is quietly sneaking out of window when CLUNEY enters R. U. and calls to him. DOOGAN returns, leaving CLUNEY down L. DOOGAN is R. of CLUNEY. Other characters enter and group as follows: JAMISON C. CARR front of desk, MRS. CARR L. of desk. Girls behind it.*)

ALL. Hello, Mr. Jamison!

JAMISON. Ah, Mrs. Carr, Joan, Caroline, Madge. Well, well, congratulations. (*To CLUNEY*) You're a lucky dog, CluneY.

CARR. I'll get the certificates for you right away.
(*Goes to safe and starts to work combination*)

CLUNEY. (*Over to DOOGAN, aside*) He's after the steel stock—I haven't got them. (*During this aside between CLUNEY and DOOGAN, MRS. CARR and JAMISON are talking together*)

DOOGAN. (*Aside*) What did you do with them?

CLUNEY. (*Aside*) Dr. Willoughby has them in his pocket. What are we going to do now?

DOOGAN. Play dead.

MRS. CARR. You've come for the steel stock.

JAMISON. Yes, the market is active—stocks are going to the skies, but the market may break any minute and I've sold mine at a tremendous profit. I must have them for immediate delivery.

CARR. (*Has opened safe and searched*) Oh, mother! Mother!

ALL. (*Group around safe. CLUNEY and DOOGAN L., well up c.*) What's the matter?

CARR. They're gone!

ALL. What!

MRS. CARR. Gone! Someone must have been to the safe.

JAMISON. Come, come, I must have them at once.

MRS. CARR. (*Pulls CARR away from safe*) Oh, they must be here; let me see. (*Examines safe*) He's right—they're gone.

JAMISON. But I tell you I must have them.

MRS. CARR. (*Looks again*) And the sunburst!

GIRLS. The sunburst?

MRS. CARR. The diamond sunburst is gone.

CAROLINE. What!

CARR. (*At safe*) And the bonds—they're gone, too. Everything's gone.

MRS. CARR. The safe has been robbed.

(*JOAN, MADGE and CAROLINE are crying.*)

MADGE. (*Crosses to L. to CLUNEY—DOOGAN*

crosses up R. CAROLINE *to back of sofa*) Oh, this is terrible.

JOAN. (*To MRS. CARR*) Oh, Mother, dear!

JAMISON. Look here, I sold these stocks for immediate delivery, knowing they were here and I could put my hands on them at a moment's notice. Now produce them.

CARR. (*Right*) How can I? They're gone.

JAMISON. If I don't deliver those stocks they can hold me for the topmost price it reaches and if they do I'll force you to settle. Do you hear?

CARR. I'm ruined.

JAMISON. Yes, and you'll ruin me if they continue to rise. You're not worth enough to insure me against loss.

CARR. They'll turn up perhaps.

JAMISON. Yes, when it's too late. By heavens, I'll make you stand my losses, sir, if I have to sell you out of house and home. The law will force you to protect me.

MRS. CARR. But what can we do?

JAMISON. You claim to have been robbed?

ALL. Yes.

JAMISON. Then call in the police.

JOAN, CAROLINE, and MADGE. Yes, yes.

CARR, MRS. CARR and CLUNEY. No, no, no!

CLUNEY. (*Crosses to JAMISON*) No, don't call in the police. I know exactly where they are.

JAMISON. Where are they?

CLUNEY. I don't know, but if you will wait ten minutes——

JAMISON. Ten minutes? Oh, I see! What is this, a brace game? You're trying to hold me here until the market is closed. I believe you're all in a pool. You're holding out my stocks to affect the market, but we shall see, we shall see! (*Starts for door L. U.* CLUNEY *crosses L.* Girls *are C.* CARR *L. C.* MRS. CARR *is near desk*)

ALL. What are you going to do?

JAMISON. Have you all arrested. You're all criminally liable.

(MRS. CARR *sinks in chair L. of desk.* JOAN and MADGE *kneel beside her.*)

CARR. Wait, wait. If I'm responsible, my property will protect you.

JAMISON. Very well, make out an accurate list of everything you own. When I return I'll look it over and see if it is enough to insure my profits. (*Starts L. U.*)

MRS. CARR, MADGE and JOAN. (*Rise*) Where are you going?

JAMISON. (*Crosses to MRS. CARR. CARR is L. of JAMISON*) To plead with my brokers for an extension of time. I came here in good faith and brought this wallet filled with money to pay what I owe, and—(*Feels for wallet, searching pockets while talking*) Great Scott, I've lost my money. My money's gone!

ALL. Money? Wallet? Lost? Where?

JAMISON. (*Center, searching himself*) I had it in my hand less than five minutes ago. What did I do with it? (*All are searching*) Someone has stolen my money!

(NELL *crosses to right.* CARR and CLUNEY *are L. searching themselves.* MADGE, CAROLINE and JOAN *are up-stage searching.* JAMISON *is C.* MRS. CARR *is right, everybody searching.*)

MRS. CARR. Are you sure you had it?

JAMISON. Of course I had it. I've been robbed. This is a trick, but mark you, by all that's holy I'll be revenged. I'll move heaven and earth to recover this money and find that stock. Do you know what

I'm going to do? (*Runs to door L. U.*) I'm going to put you all in jail! (*All scream*) Behind prison bars! (*All scream*) I'll hang the whole outfit! (*All scream*) I'll send every damn one of you to the electric chair. (*All scream*) I'll have your hearts' blood—your hearts' blood! (*Exits, slamming door L. U. All hold picture*)

CARR. He's gone.

MRS. CARR. (*Sinks in chair L. of desk*) Now what are we going to do?

MADGE. (*Screams and sinks on sofa L.* JOAN, CAROLINE and CLUNEY go to her and console her. NELL and DOOGAN are up R.) Oh, this is terrible, terrible.

CARR. (*To Mrs. Carr*) Everything will come out all right, Mother. I'm sure of it.

MRS. CARR. (*Weeping*) Oh, William, William. (*Pause*)

NELL. (*Aside to Doogan*) What are you going to do? He's gone after the cops.

DOOGAN. (*Aside to Nell*) Go on, get your things. Be ready to blow any minute. (*Nell exits c. Doogan comes center*) There. There now, keep cool. He'll find his money. Nobody's stolen his money. Don't you think I'd know if something was stolen?

CARR. But somebody's stolen the certificates.

CLUNEY. And somebody's stolen the bonds.

MRS. CARR. And the sunburst.

MADGE. And all my beautiful wedding presents! (*Starts crying again*)

DOOGAN. Say, you can't keep this up all day.

MRS. CARR. But the police. He's gone for the police.

CLUNEY. But, wait, Mr. Doogan's from headquarters. He can get rid of the police all right, can't you?

DOOGAN. (*Motions to them, they all surround*

him at c.) Now, listen. * You know I'm not an ordinary detective. No, I'm one of the Chief's private men. Now if the police should get here before I leave, don't tell them that I'm a detective, whatever you do.

ALL. Why not?

DOOGAN. Why not? Why, don't you see? They'd wonder why I was here. They'd know then that the house had been robbed. They'd send the report to headquarters. The newspapers would get the story and disgrace the family. Don't you see?

MADGE. No, I don't see.

JOAN. Nor I.

MRS. CARR. Wait, I think I know what Mr. Doogan means.

DOOGAN. Then you explain.

MRS. CARR. (*To JOAN*) Well, you see, your father——

CLUNEY. Yes, father——

MRS. CARR. (*Consciously*) If the police should come here we must deny that we've been robbed.

CLUNEY. That's a good idea.

CARR. It's a great idea.

DOOGAN. Now, there are two things you have to keep in mind. I am not a detective, and the house has not been robbed. Do you understand?

MADGE. No, I don't understand.

DOOGAN. Come here. (*Takes MADGE's arm and exits L. C. with her. CLUNEY follows*)

CLUNEY. I will do the explaining in my family.

(*JOAN and CAROLINE follow them off.*)

JOAN and CAROLINE. I wish someone would explain it to me, (*Etc., etc.*)

(*CARR and MRS. CARR are left on stage alone.*)

DOOGAN *returns to c. and on seeing MR. and MRS. CARR, hides in closet in hall.*)

CARR. There, there, mother, everything will be all right.

MRS. CARR. William, our honor is at stake. We must either find Mr. Jamison's certificates or make up his loss if it costs us every dollar we possess.

CARR. I'm willing, mother, I'll do it.

MRS. CARR. Well, then, do as Mr. Jamison says. Make out an inventory of everything we own while I go hunt for that stock, and I'll find it if it's in the house. (*Exit L. c. talking ad lib.*)

CARR. Inventory! I'm ruined! Now they'll find out that I've mortgaged the place. (*Exits L. c.*)

(DOOGAN *enters from closet up c. with suit-case in his hand. He is about to exit L. u. door when the DOCTOR enters and intercepts him.*)

DOCTOR. Where are you going?

DOOGAN. I was just——

DOCTOR. Oh, you were going to leave us in the lurch, eh? No, you don't; you're going to stay right here until this mystery is cleared up. You promised to stick and see this thing through. Get your suit-case, too, eh? No, you don't. Give me that. You'll stay right here until we find out where these things have gotten to. (*Takes suit-case from DOOGAN*) Now I'll put this where you won't find it. (*DOCTOR exits R. c. talking ad lib. DOOGAN follows him out into outer hall, looking after him dazed. NELL enters from hallway L.*)

NELL. Jack, how did he get that suit-case?

DOOGAN. Never mind how he got it, you follow him and plant it the minute he lays it down. (*NELL exits R. c. into hallway*) Just think, I let that boob take that satchel right out of my hands.

DOCTOR. (*Enters from R. c.*) Watch here at

the door. I want to see if this damn safe is open so I can get this stock back where it belongs.

DOOGAN. (*Up c.*) Yes, you'd better do that. The fellow who owns it was here. Everybody in the house was looking for it.

DOCTOR. (*At safe*) It's open—good. You say Jamison was here looking for his stock?

DOOGAN. Yes, and Cluney is as sore as a boil. You'd better go and square it with him.

DOCTOR. Where is he?

DOOGAN. He's upstairs.

DOCTOR. I'll go up and see him. Now don't go away until I get back, will you? (*Exits L. c.*)

DOOGAN. (*Making a dash for the window*) No, I won't go away.—I'll break all the speed records, that's all. (*Returns to center*) Gee, I'm forgetting the suit-case! I'm a hell of a thief, I am!

NELL. (*Enters with grip*) Here it is, Jack, I grabbed it the minute he laid it down. (*Runs up c. closing doors, then returns to DOOGAN*)

DOOGAN. (*Takes out list and pencil*) Did you get the money in the closet?

NELL. Yes, I've got it, and the sable furs and sealskins in the steamer trunk.

DOOGAN. I'll check them off. What about the trunk?

NELL. (*R. of DOOGAN*) I lowered the trunk from a window with a rope. It's in the back yard. I'll throw it over the fence and get a taxi and bring it back with me. Now you go on and beat it, Jack, and I'll get out the back door.

DOOGAN. There's a lot of good stuff around here, Nell. We ought to have a van.

NELL. Jack!

DOOGAN. It's a crime to stop stealing when everything is coming so easy for us.

NELL. But you promised, Jack, that this would be the last trick.

DOOGAN. And I'm going to keep my promise. Turk's Head in ten minutes. Don't forget.

NELL. I won't. (*Starts for door R. U. DOOGAN starts for window*)

DOOGAN. Don't forget—ten minutes. (*Turns and bumps into detective, who enters thru window L.*)

(*Picture.*)

DETECTIVE. Well, here I am.

DOOGAN. (*Crossing to c.*) Here he is. What do you want?

DETECTIVE. (*L. of DOOGAN. NELL R. of DOOGAN*) What do I want? Why, you told me to be back here in an hour, didn't you?

DOOGAN. That's right, I did.

DETECTIVE. The hour's up. I'm right on the dot.

DOOGAN. That's right.—But we were wrong about the time, weren't we? (*This to NELL*)

NELL. Yes.

DOOGAN. We talked that over after he left, didn't we?

NELL. Yes, they won't be here until nine to-night.

DOOGAN. Nine to-night.

DETECTIVE. Who won't be here until nine to-night?

NELL. The two you want to capture.

DOOGAN. This will be a great feather in your cap if you will pull it off. You will have Burns backed off the map.

DETECTIVE. Who's he? Quit your stalling. Why don't you tell me what the case is?

DOOGAN. (*To NELL*) Shall we tell him now?

NELL. Yes, sir, I think we'd better.

DOOGAN. It's a case of amalgamania. You know what that is, don't you?

DETECTIVE. Sure. It's—yes—it's—

DOOGAN. (*Slaps detective on back*) Yes, you're right—collective robbery.

DETECTIVE. Yes, robbery. Have you got any evidence?

DOOGAN. (*Pointing to suit-case*) Sure—in there. This is full of evidence.

DETECTIVE. (*Trying to take suit-case*) I think I had better take it.

DOOGAN. (*Drawing suit-case away from detective*) No, I think you'd better not. (*To NELL*) What do you think?

NELL. I think you had better keep it, sir.

DOOGAN. (*To detective*) I think she's right. You see, if you take it the thieves can't get it—no evidence. If you leave it here the thieves will get it and there's the evidence, you understand?

DETECTIVE. I got you.

DOOGAN. Now, don't disappoint us again. Be here at nine o'clock sharp.

DETECTIVE. I got you.

(*CARR is heard singing off-stage.*)

DOOGAN. (*Up c.*) That's one of them now—scoot!

(*DETECTIVE starts for window.*)

NELL. (*Crosses up R.*) You'd better sneak out this way, sir.

(*DETECTIVE starts toward R. U.*)

DOOGAN. (*To detective, as he is crossing over to R. U.*) Yes, this is the way out, that's only the way in.

DETECTIVE. (*At R. U. door*) I'll be there at nine sharp. (*Looks at watch*)

DOOGAN. Have you got the right time?

DETECTIVE. The right time? Well, it ought to be the right time. This watch cost six hundred dollars. (*Exits R. U. E.*)

DOOGAN. (*To NELL*) Get the watch.

NELL. I will. (*Exits R. U. E. DOOGAN makes an effort to get away when c. door opens and CARR enters making out inventory, followed by CAROLINE. DOOGAN hides suit-case under desk and sits R. of desk, pretending to busy himself with list he has made out*)

CARR. (*Enters c. followed by CAROLINE*) I won't have you following me around when I am making an inventory of all I possess.

CAROLINE. But mother told me to stay close to you so I could watch you.

CARR. I don't want anybody to watch me. (*Door bell rings*) See who's at the door.

CAROLINE. Where's the maid?

DOOGAN. (*Seated at desk R.*) She's gone to get me the right time.

CAROLINE. Oh, I see. (*Exits L. U. CARR sits at table making out inventory. He takes two five-hundred dollar bills from his pocket and holds them on table. DOOGAN is watching the money and makes a move to take it from CARR. CARR drops down hand in his lap. DOOGAN taps CARR on shoulder. CARR looks up*)

DOOGAN. What are you doing with that money?

CARR. It's mine.

DOOGAN. (*Takes out list*) Well, you didn't declare it on this list of valuables.

CARR. Well, I was going to include it in the inventory I am making for Mr. Jamison.

DOOGAN. Why, Jamison has no right to that money!

CARR. Hasn't he?

DOOGAN. No. If you haven't got it you can't include it in your inventory, can you?

CARR. That's so.

DOOGAN. (*Takes money from CARR*) I'll mind it for you. (*Puts money in pocket and crosses c.*)

CARR. Will you? That's very kind of you. Well, I must go on with my work. (*Going toward R., taking inventory*) One telephone——

DOOGAN. (*L. c. writing*) Two five-hundred dollar bills in hand.

CARR. (*Writing*) One bridal bouquet, one door knob—(*Exits R. U. E.*)

(*As CARR exits, DOOGAN grabs suit-case from under desk and starts for L. U. door, when CAROLINE bursts into the room yelling "Police," leaving DOOGAN behind door. CAROLINE exits L. C. yelling.*)

CAROLINE. Police, Police, the police are here!

(*DOOGAN locks L. U. door, hides suit-case under sofa L., and runs down R. The entire family enter excitedly, all talking at once.*)

SERGEANT. (*Pounding on door*) Open in the name of the law! (*Pounding continues. SERGEANT kicks open door and enters, followed by JAMISON and three policemen in uniform. SERGEANT goes to c. and closes doors*)

JAMISON. (*L. c. pointing CARR out to SERGEANT*) This is Mr. Carr. He's got my certificates and my money. (*JAMISON is L. C. CARR is R. C. MRS. CARR sinks in chair R. of desk, MADGE is R. of MRS. CARR.*)

DOOGAN R. corner. JOAN, CAROLINE, DOCTOR *and* CLUNEY *are over* L. SERGEANT *up* C. door)

SERGEANT. O'Malley, watch that door. (*Pointing to R. U. door*)

O'MALLEY. Yes, sir.

SERGEANT. You, the window. (*Pointing to CLUNEY—to CASEY*) You the other door. (*Meaning L. U. door. SERGEANT comes down c.*) I have a search warrant.

DOOGAN. (*Right*) A search warrant. Good-bye, sunburst. (*Pins sunburst on MADGE and crosses behind desk*)

SERGEANT. (*Starts to read warrant*) "County and City of Providence: In the name of the people of the State of Rhode Island"—"to any policeman of said city, proof of affidavit having been made"—

CARR. (*Interrupting SERGEANT*) Don't serve that warrant. (*Takes up pencil from desk and crosses to JAMISON*) Jamison, this inventory will insure you against loss.

DOOGAN. (*Back of desk, picks up inventory*) That isn't the inventory—here's the inventory.

JAMISON. (*To CARR*) Insure me against loss, that's all I want. (*Points to pencil in disgust*) What is that thing?

CARR. I'm losing my mind. (*Falls against SERGEANT*)

SERGEANT. Here, old man.

DOOGAN. (*Takes warrant from SERGEANT, at the same time dropping inventory. He stoops to pick it up and says*) Allow me.

SERGEANT. Stop that. None of your tricks with me. I'll pick it up.

DOOGAN. (*Circles back of SERGEANT to L. corner. Puts warrant in CARR's pocket*) Suit yourself. (*Crosses back to R. of SERGEANT*)

JAMISON. (*Crosses back to R. of SERGEANT.*

Indicating CARR) Here's the tricky one, don't trust him.

(*SERGEANT crosses to CARR.*)

MADGE. Oh, Mother, what a disgrace!

MRS. CARR. (*Sees sunburst on MADGE*) The sunburst. Heredity!

SERGEANT. Everybody must be searched.

(*Women scream.*)

MRS. CARR. Stop them, somebody—Mr. Doogan.

DOOGAN. Wait a minute, you haven't served the warrant yet. (*This to SERGEANT*)

SERGEANT. I'll serve the warrant, all right. (*To CARR, placing hand on his shoulder*) Here. (*CARR attempts to take warrant*) Not much. I'll read it to you. (*Opens warrant and reads*) "My home and personal effects, all furniture, one ice box"—My God, I've lost my warrant! (*All search as curtain descends*)

Second curtain: all are on knees searching.

ACT III

AT RISE: *All are still on their knees searching as the curtain of the second act left them. Everybody is talking.*

JAMISON. Come, Sergeant, come, we're wasting time.

SERGEANT. (*c., rising from his knees*) Come on, come on, that's enough. Get up, get up! (*All rise.*
SERGEANT is c., JAMISON L. of SERGEANT; CLUNEY

down L. DOOGAN up R. MRS. CARR front of desk. CARR and MADGE down R. JOAN and CAROLINE back of desk) Now, let me tell you people something. You can't bluff me; this is a frame-up. Somebody in this room has nicked me for my warrant. Now, come on, who's got it? (*Looking at MRS. CARR*)

MRS. CARR. (*Right center*) Do you mean to insinuate that someone has stolen your warrant?

SERGEANT. Yes, just as someone has stolen Mr. Jamison's certificates.

JAMISON. (*L. of SERGEANT*) And my money—don't forget my money! Come, Sergeant, let's get some action here!

SERGEANT. I'm going to search the house and everybody in it. (*Starts R. DOOGAN comes down R. of him*)

DOOGAN. Wait a minute, wait a minute, you can't search this house without a warrant.

SERGEANT. Well, didn't I have a warrant?

JAMISON. Yes, didn't he have a warrant?

DOOGAN. Well, where is your warrant?

SERGEANT. That's it, where is it?

DOOGAN. I don't know, but you can't search this house without one—I know the law.

SERGEANT. Say, who are you?

DOOGAN. Never mind who I am. You haven't got a warrant and that stops you.

DOCTOR. Go on, tell him who you are.

ALL. (*Except CARR and JAMISON*) Sh!

SERGEANT. (*Steps down-stage, looking at R. group*) What's all this shushing about?

CARR. (*Down R. apart from others, with satisfied smile on his face*) I didn't shush.

JAMISON. Come, Sergeant, come for heaven's sake, do something. My brokers extended the time, but I must have those certificates within an hour.

SERGEANT. Listen, you hurry down to police headquarters and swear out another warrant.

JAMISON. But that will only take more time, and——

SERGEANT. Go on, take it on the run, I'll stay here and watch out for this bunch until you get back. Go on! (SERGEANT goes up-stage L. U.)

JAMISON. All right, don't let any of them get away. If I don't get my certificates I'll jail every one of them. (Going L. U.)

SERGEANT. (Going up after JAMISON) I understand, hurry up. (JAMISON exits L. U. E. SERGEANT goes down c. DOOGAN stops him)

DOOGAN. (R. of SERGEANT) Hold on, you policemen can't stay in this house.

SERGEANT. If you don't keep your trap shut I'll have to chastise you, sweetheart. My warrant was stolen here—that's proof of a felony. I'm sure of finding that when Jamison gets back, so I'm going to stay right here and get a little satisfaction on my own account.

(DOOGAN goes up R.)

DOCTOR. (Crosses to L. of SERGEANT) Look here, Sergeant, what's all this excitement about? What's been stolen?

SERGEANT. Mr. Jamison's steel stock certificates.

DOCTOR. Why, the steel stocks are in that safe.

CARR. (Right) No, we just looked in the safe.

MRS. CARR. (L. of desk) We have looked everywhere.

DOCTOR. But you haven't looked in the safe lately, not in the last few minutes. Perhaps you were mistaken. You had better look again.

CARR. (SERGEANT is looking at DOCTOR suspiciously. CARR and MADGE kneel at safe. MRS.

CARR *looking on expectantly*) Perhaps I was, I'll look again.

MRS. CARR. Yes, take another look, William.

SERGEANT. (*Turns, yelling R., at group at safe, CARR and MADGE flutter down R. holding on to each other. MRS. CARR is in front of safe*) Get away from that safe. Nobody will touch anything in this house until Jamison gets back with that warrant, then I'll do the searching.

DOOGAN. (*R. of SERGEANT*) Look here, you can't tell this gentleman what he can do in his own house.

SERGEANT. I'll wallop you in a minute.

DOOGAN. I think you would if my hands were tied. (*SERGEANT strikes at DOOGAN with L. hand, DOOGAN crosses to L. C.; three cops come down and hold him. During this scene JOAN, CARR, MADGE, MRS. CARR and CAROLINE are up C. DOCTOR and CLUNEY front of desk R. DOOGAN is L. C.*) Come on, come on, I'm just dying to trim a bull.

SERGEANT. That's all right, men, go back and guard your doors, but keep your eyes on this fellow. We'll take him with us when we go. (*SERGEANT starts up R. Policemen go back to doors. Minister enters from L. U. and comes C. to SERGEANT*)

MINISTER. I found the door open, so I walked right in.

ALL. The minister!

MINISTER. Are you a policeman?

SERGEANT. What did you think I was—a messenger-boy? What are you?

MINISTER. An Episcopalian.

SERGEANT. Keep your eyes on him, Clancey.

MINISTER. (*Turns L.*) If there's any trouble, I'll go. (*Starts for L. U. door*)

CASEY. No, you don't. Get back there.

(*SERGEANT comes down R. C.*)

CLUNEY. (R. of SERGEANT) Look here, this is ridiculous!

SERGEANT. What's that?

CLUNEY. (*Retires R. in confusion*) I didn't say anything.

MINISTER. (*Comes down L. of DOOGAN*) Why, you know, sir——

DOOGAN. Yes, I know, tell it to Clancey. (*DOOGAN crosses up C. L.*)

(MINISTER at left starts to put prayer-book in pocket.)

SERGEANT. (*Center*) What are you putting in your pocket?

MINISTER. My prayer-book.

SERGEANT. See if that's a prayer-book, Clancey? (*CLANCEY crosses to L. of minister and examines book*) Is it?

CLANCEY. I don't know.

SERGEANT. Give it back to him. (*CLANCEY hands minister book and goes to window L.*) We'll have to hold you. Get over there.

MINISTER. (*Goes R. U. and joins CAROLINE*) This is an outrage!

(SERGEANT crosses to L. U. door. DOCTOR and CLUNEY cross to L. C. upper, DOCTOR is L. of CLUNEY, CARR moves down to L. corner, MRS. CARR, MADGE and JOAN are in front of desk R. SERGEANT looks at DOCTOR, then same business to CLUNEY, minister and CAROLINE, then to MRS. CARR, MADGE and JOAN. As they look at him he turns away. SERGEANT, then looks at CARR. CARR looks at SERGEANT, then turns L. and runs into CLANCEY's arms, then resumes

first position. SERGEANT looks at DOOGAN, who is L. U. near CASEY, then looks back at CARR.)

CARR. Stop that! (*SERGEANT starts toward CARR*) Mother! (*He crosses over to MRS. CARR R. SERGEANT turns up-stage*)

SERGEANT. (*To CLUNEY, DOOGAN and DOCTOR*) You there fellows sit down there on that sofa. I want you where I can keep my eye on you.

(*DOCTOR, CLUNEY and DOOGAN go and sit on sofa, CLUNEY down stage, DOCTOR center middle and DOOGAN R. SERGEANT watches them.*)

MRS. CARR. (*To MADGE, on her right*) Madge, I found the sunburst on your dress. Did you take anything else, dear?

MADGE. What!

MRS. CARR. Sh!

SERGEANT. (*Turns*) Stop that shushing, I tell you.

CARR. (*Front of desk*) You'll make me angry in a moment.

SERGEANT. (*Turns and looks at three men on sofa, who are talking. They straighten up*) Now, listen, men! (*Looks at three policemen*) Keep your eyes open. Don't let them pick up or get rid of a thing. If one of them should so much as put his hand in his pocket even—(*CLUNEY takes his hand out of his pocket*) Just call my attention to it.

MRS. CARR. Good heavens!

CARR. Mother!

MRS. CARR. What?

CARR. Mother, I think I have something in my pocket!

MRS. CARR. William!

SERGEANT. (*Turns to MRS. CARR*) Cut out that

conversation. Remember, anything you say will be used against you. (*Turns back to men on sofa*)

CARR. (*After long pause*) Ain't it quiet?

(DOOGAN has business with handkerchief.)

MRS. CARR. Joan.

JOAN. (*Whispering at extreme right end*) Yes?

MRS. CARR. See if you can't interest the Sergeant.

JOAN. I don't know what to say.

MRS. CARR. Try. (*MADGE gives her a little push. JOAN crosses to SERGEANT, c. He turns to her. They pantomime*) Madge, your father has something in his pocket, try and get it out. (*She passes MADGE over to CARR and takes her place*) Now, now.

(*CARR is trying to guide MADGE's hand into his pocket. O'MALLEY comes down stage, MRS. CARR coughs, MADGE and MRS. CARR move away from CARR to R. O'MALLEY stands where MADGE had been. CARR takes O'MALLEY's hand and tries to put it in his pocket; O'MALLEY snatches his hand away. Consternation in group R.—Pause.*)

DOCTOR. (*On sofa, whispering*) Let's tell him the stocks are in the safe.

CLUNEY. (*Whispering*) What's the good of that?

DOCTOR. (*Whispers*) It's no lie. I put them there.

CLUNEY. (*Whispers*) You did?

DOCTOR. (*Whispers*) Sure.

DOOGAN. (*Whispers*) Don't tell them that, you'll have to explain where you got them. (*They*

all continue whispering. SERGEANT turns his head and looks at them)

SERGEANT. Here, what are you fellows whispering about?

DOCTOR, CLUNEY and DOOGAN. (*Whispering*) Nothing. (*Aloud*) Nothing.

SERGEANT. Keep your eye on them, Clancey, don't let them frame up anything. Listen to every word they say. I think you fellows had better spread out. Come on, split out—get apart.

(DOOGAN, DOCTOR and CLUNEY rise, DOOGAN and DOCTOR up stage and around down to R. corner. CLUNEY starts to exit L. near window, but is stopped by CLANCEY.)

CLANCEY. (*Stopping CLUNEY*) No you don't, you heard what he said.

(CLUNEY crosses to R. MRS. CARR, JOAN and CARR R. to left. Right group; DOOGAN, DOCTOR and CLUNEY; left group JOAN, L. H. CARR, MADGE and MRS. CARR, SERGEANT C. CAROLINE and minister up R.)

CARR. (*As he crosses to SERGEANT*) Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Sergeant?

SERGEANT. No, no.

CARR. This is our house. (*Crosses to L. corner leaving SERGEANT in middle. JOAN is down L. CARR next, then MADGE and MRS. CARR. SERGEANT looks at the three men at R. all together again DOOGAN has business of taking hands out of pockets*)

MADGE. Now, now.

(CARR starts whistling "*Home, home, sweet home*". MADGE tries to get into CARR's pocket. CLANCEY comes down from window and stands behind sofa looking at them.)

SERGEANT. Cut out that whistling. (*Goes up R. to O'MALLEY, whispers to him, comes down c. again and looks at the CARRS. He then turns and catches DOOGAN, who is in R. corner, whispering with CLUNEY and the DOCTOR. CLUNEY, the DOCTOR, and DOOGAN straighten up as SERGEANT looks at them. CLUNEY crosses and takes DOCTOR's place*)

MRS. CARR. (*Whispering*) It's no use, Madge, they're watching us like hawks.

MADGE. (*Whispering*) Maybe if we could get them into the dining room——

MRS. CARR. (*Whispering*) Joan.

JOAN. (*Whispering*) What?

MRS. CARR. (*Whispering*) Tell them we're hungry.

JOAN. (*Whispering*) What?

MADGE. (*Whispering*) Tell them we're hungry.

JOAN. (*Whispering*) What?

CARR. (*Loudly*) Hungry.

JOAN. (*Crosses to SERGEANT c.*) Mr. Sergeant. (*SERGEANT turns and looks over her head, and then at her*) Mr. Sergeant, we haven't had a bite since breakfast. Please, may we have something to eat?

SERGEANT. Well, that's pretty hard, Miss. Sure, go ahead. (*Crosses up to CASEY L. U.*)

MRS. CARR. Ah! Come, William.

(*CARRS and minister cross to R. U. DOOGAN, DOCTOR and CLUNEY cross around up to R.*)

CLUNEY. Thank you, Sergeant.

SERGEANT. No, get back there. (*He pushes DOCTOR, CLUNEY and DOOGAN in front of sofa*) I want you three fellows to stay over there. The rest of them are all right, O'Malley. They're hungry.

O'MALLEY. (*Up to R. door*) Hungry, is it? Well, for the last ten minutes every last one of them

has been trying to get something out of that old man's pocket.

MRS. CARR. How dare you? (*All talk ad lib.*)

SERGEANT. So that's the game, eh? Get back there.

(MRS. CARR, JOAN and MADGE go to R. corner,
SERGEANT drives CARR around C. and then to R.
CAROLINE and minister go R.)

SERGEANT. (*To CARR*) So that's the game, eh? Trying to slip something over on me. (*SERGEANT crosses to L. CLUNEY, DOCTOR and DOOGAN are in front of sofa in order named. As SERGEANT reaches them they all sit on sofa quickly. MR. CARR coughs*) Stop that coughing.

CARR. But my throat tickles.

SERGEANT. Keep quiet.

(*SERGEANT goes up-stage and looks at CAROLINE, then turns to men on sofa. DOOGAN is talking with his fingers to men. The DOCTOR calls his attention to the fact that the SERGEANT is looking at him. CLUNEY continues talking on his fingers, and finally looks up to see the SERGEANT looking at him. He scratches his head and stops.*)

MRS. CARR. (*Whispering*) Joan.

JOAN. (*Whispering*) Yes?

MRS. CARR. (*Whispering*) See if the Sergeant will let you make us some chocolate?

JOAN. (*Whispering*) What for?

MRS. CARR. To distract his attention. Your father's got something in his pocket.

JOAN. (*Crosses to SERGEANT C. and takes hold of his sleeve to attract his attention. SERGEANT turns to her*) Please, may I serve some chocolate? We're

half starved, really we are. (*She pats him on sleeve*) There's a dear Sergeant!

SERGEANT. (*Smiles*) Well, I guess it will be all right, Miss, if I go with you, O'Malley?

O'MALLEY. Yes, sir?

SERGEANT. Look out for things while I take charge of the young lady.

O'MALLEY. Sure.

(SERGEANT and JOAN exit arm in arm R. U.)

DOCTOR. (*Following JOAN and SERGEANT, DOOGAN goes up c.*) I won't have it.

O'MALLEY. Get back there. (*Pushes DOCTOR back on sofa*)

CLUNEY. (*At sofa*) But you don't understand.

O'MALLEY. Yes, I do understand.

DOCTOR. I won't have him going out with her!

O'MALLEY. I guess she's been in worse company.

(DOCTOR and CLUNEY sit on sofa, DOOGAN is up c. O'MALLEY turns and catches MRS. CARR with her hand in CARR's pocket) Here, take your hand out of that man's pocket! I'm watching you. (O'MALLEY walks c. and looks at CLUNEY and DOCTOR on sofa, then makes a face at DOOGAN, which DOOGAN returns. MRS. CARR again tries to get her hand into CARR's pocket. She has her back to the audience. O'MALLEY crosses back to desk and watches the CARRS)

(*The DOCTOR and CLUNEY whisper on sofa, but are stopped by CLANCEY looking over their shoulders. CASEY steps off L. 3. DOOGAN gets his hat from desk L. U., sees that no one is looking, and starts for window L. CLANCEY, who is watching DOOGAN, backs into the window and DOOGAN runs into him.*)

SERGEANT. (*Off-stage R. U.*) I've got it, I've got it. (*Enters with JOAN, and comes down c. JOAN is on his left*)

ALL. What? The warrant?

SERGEANT. No, no, the certificates. I knew I'd find them. (*DOOGAN is down L. corner, SERGEANT shows bonds to CARR, who is R. left of desk, MINISTER is extreme R. CAROLINE above desk R. DOCTOR and CLUNEY rise as SERGEANT makes his entrance*)

CLUNEY. (*Aside to DOCTOR*) The securities? I thought you put them in the safe?

DOCTOR. I did. (*To DOOGAN*) Didn't I?

DOOGAN. He's got the bonds.

CARR. These are the bonds.

CLUNEY. (*Crosses to L. of SERGEANT c., and looks at bonds*) So they are.

JOAN. They were in the chocolate pot.

MADGE. (*Right*) Where was the chocolate pot?

JOAN. Hidden in the pantry.

DOCTOR. Who hid the chocolate pot? (*DOCTOR looks at JOAN, JOAN looks at CLUNEY, CLUNEY looks at SERGEANT*)

CLUNEY. I didn't. (*All look at CARR*)

CARR. Well, you needn't look at me.

SERGEANT. Come on, who hid the chocolate pot?

MRS. CARR. I did!

ALL. What?

SERGEANT. Why did you hide it?

MRS. CARR. I don't know.

CARR. No, no, mother, I won't let you take the blame, I think I hid it.

CLUNEY. I won't allow this, Sergeant. Mark you, I don't remember having done so, but I expect I hid it.

SERGEANT. What's this all about? Come on, now, I want the truth. Who hid the chocolate pot?

CARR, MRS. CARR and CLUNEY. I did.

SERGEANT. It took three of you to hide it. This is a mad-house. (*SERGEANT goes up c. and back again. DOOGAN crosses up to R. corner. MRS. and Mr. CARR c. from R. to L.*)

MRS. CARR. William, my brain is reeling.

(CLUNEY and DOCTOR cross R.)

CLUNEY. He's right, this is a mad-house and I am one of its worse inmates.

(MINISTER turns back on crowd, opens prayer book and starts to read; DOCTOR comes R. of SERGEANT.)

DOCTOR. (*Coming R. of SERGEANT*) See here, Sergeant, you want Mr. Jamison's steel stocks. Isn't that what you came here for?

SERGEANT. Well, what of it?

DOCTOR. They're in that safe, and if you will allow Mr. Carr to get them out you may have them.

SERGEANT. But Mr. Carr says they are not in the safe.

DOCTOR. (*Crosses to safe*) But they are there. I know it—I'll show you. See, here they are. (*Takes stocks out of safe and hands them to SERGEANT*) This is the cause of all the trouble—take them.

SERGEANT. International steel stock. (*Looks at Mr. and Mrs. Carr*)

MRS. CARR. How did they get in there?

CARR. Yes, how did they get back in there?

DOOGAN, CLUNEY, and DOCTOR. Sh!

SERGEANT. Cut out that shushing, I tell you! (*DOOGAN turns and looks at the minister, over his shoulder, reading prayer-book, R. corner. Turns to CARR and MRS. CARR, L. C.*) Say, what kind of a game is this, anyway?

CARR. I didn't do that.

SERGEANT. Who stole my warrant?

CLANCEY. The old man's got something in his pocket.

MRS. CARR. This is an outrage!

SERGEANT. Get it. (*CLANCEY searches CARR, takes warrant out of his right hand pocket, hands it to SERGEANT who opens it*) My warrant!

(*CLANCEY goes back to position at window.*)

MADGE. Oh, father!

MRS. CARR. William!

CARR. I didn't steal that!

SERGEANT. What makes you think so?

CARR. I didn't get a chance.

SERGEANT. Are you sure?

CARR. You can search me.

SERGEANT. That's what I'm going to do. I'm going to search everything and everybody in this house. (*He starts R., but is stopped by CLUNEY. SERGEANT shows CLUNEY his warrant. DOCTOR goes up C. to O'MALLEY. CARR and MRS. CARR talk to each other. DOOGAN pulls pocket book out of pocket and starts C., stops, and looks R.*)

DOOGAN. Good-bye, bank roll! (*Puts money in minister's pocket and then goes C. to SERGEANT. CLUNEY goes C. DOOGAN goes to desk R.*)

SERGEANT. O'Malley!

O'MALLEY. Yes, sir?

SERGEANT. Grab a taxi, beat Jamison to Headquarters and bring him back with you.

O'MALLEY. Right, sir. (*Exits L. U.*)

SERGEANT. (*Crosses to R. U. and opens door*) Move up, O'Brien.

O'BRIEN. (*Off-stage*) Yes, sir.

SERGEANT. (*Closes door and crosses L. to C.*) I'm going to search this bunch. I've found Jamison's securities and now I'm going to find his money.

ALL. Oh, no, no, (*Etc., etc.*)

SERGEANT. I want you all to line up here on this side. Come on. (*All run around in a circle, which is finally broken up by SERGEANT*) No, no this isn't

a ring-around-a-rosy game. I want you to line up here. (*Falls on sofa L. of desk. MINISTER is in R.-hand corner. MRS. CARR next, then MR. CARR, DOOGAN is L. of desk. CLUNEY L. of DOOGAN. DOCTOR L. of CLUNEY. The three girls are R. of desk. SERGEANT rises from sofa*) Move that thing out of the way. (*SERGEANT takes suit-case from CLANCY*) What is it?

CLUNEY. Why, that's my suit-case.

DOCTOR. What's it doing here?

SERGEANT. Who put that suit-case under the sofa?

CARR. I don't know.

SERGEANT. Who hid the suit-case?

DOCTOR. I put that suit-case in the closet at the other end of the hall less than twenty minutes ago.

CLUNEY. Where did you get it?

DOCTOR. From Doogan.

CLUNEY. (*To DOOGAN*) Where did you get it?

DOOGAN. I must decline to answer for fear of incriminating a friend. (*DOOGAN looks significantly at CARR, then at CLUNEY. SERGEANT turns to CLANCY and talks in pantomime to him*)

CLUNEY. (*To DOCTOR*) He's protecting me.

MRS. CARR. (*To CARR*) He's protecting you, Father.

SERGEANT. Give it to me; I'll see what's in it. (*Puts suit-case on sofa and starts to open it*)

MRS. CARR. (*Crosses to SERGEANT. CARR follows on her right*) Please, please don't open that suit-case.

SERGEANT. What's this all about?

DOOGAN. See what this lady has got to say, won't you?

SERGEANT. Eh?

(*DOOGAN works up and around to L. ready to dash through window.*)

MRS. CARR. Well, I think I can explain the mystery, but if I disclose this family secret, I rely on the honor of all here that it will go no further. William, tell the truth.

CARR. I presume you've all heard of kleptomaniacs?

CLUNEY. Doctor, they've discovered me.

ALL. What?

CLUNEY. Yes, I'm a klepomaniac. It's an inheritance over which I have no control.

MADGE. (*Goes to CLUNEY*) James!

CLUNEY. Forgive me, Madge, forgive me.

MRS. CARR. Good heavens, what will my grandchildren be?

CARR. (*CARR and MRS. CARR cross L. front of sofa*) He's lying to save me.

(*SERGEANT goes up c.*)

MRS. CARR. William, how noble of him!

DOCTOR. (*Up c.*) Look here, Sergeant, this is all wrong. (*To CLUNEY*) James, you have no right to——

CLUNEY. (*R.*) It's true, it's true, I'm a klepomaniac! Mr. Doogan will tell you. I had him sent from headquarters to watch me. He's a detective.

SERGEANT. Who's a detective? (*DOOGAN dashes out of window. Women scream. He is brought back by CASEY down L. MR. and MRS. CARR have crossed below safe R. Three girls are up-stage with minister and DOCTOR. To DOOGAN*) So you're a detective, are you? Keep him in charge, Casey.

CARRS. What!

SERGEANT. (*C.*) Who did he say he was?

CLUNEY. (*R. c.*) He said his name was Doogan but here's his card with another name on it.

SERGEANT. (*Reads card*) Joe Thompson. Why,

Joe is one of our best plain-clothes men. This fellow is a crook.

ALL. A crook!

THOMPSON. (*Enters from L. U. and goes down R. of SERGEANT*) Hello, Sergeant.

SERGEANT. Hello, Joe, we were just speaking of you. Have you been here before to-day?

THOMPSON. Yes, twice.

SERGEANT. I thought so.

THOMPSON. They told me not to come back here till nine o'clock, but when I got to headquarters I missed something. By gad, somebody has pinched my watch.

CLUNEY. (*R. c. searching himself*) Who told you to come back here at nine o'clock?

THOMPSON. (*C.*) A man named Cluney.

ALL. (*Look at CLUNEY in surprise*) Cluney!

CLUNEY. (*Not sure whether he did or not*) My name is Cluney.

THOMPSON. (*Turns and looks at CLUNEY in surprise*) Your name Cluney? You're not the guy.

SERGEANT. (*Pushing DOOGAN to THOMPSON*) Is this the one?

THOMPSON. Hello?

DOOGAN. Hello!

THOMPSON. This is the bird.

SERGEANT. I thought so. (*Pushes DOOGAN back to CASEY*) Keep him in charge, Casey.

THOMPSON. (*In surprise*) Is he a crook?

SERGEANT. Sure.

THOMPSON. Where's the gal he works with?

SERGEANT. He works with a girl?

THOMPSON. Sure, the maid.

ALL. The maid!

(CAROLINE *exits* L. c.)

THOMPSON. They both trimmed me.

CARR. No wonder!

SERGEANT. Thompson, I think we'll clean this mystery up in a minute now. (THOMPSON goes L.) Where's the maid?

CAROLINE. (*Enters c.*) The maid has gone.

ALL. Gone?

CAROLINE. Bag and baggage.

DOOGAN. (*Aside*) Thank God!

O'MALLEY. (*Outside R. U.*) Everybody has got to stay in that room. (*Enters, dragging NELL, and throws her down to SERGEANT*) Get in here, you.

(NELL and SERGEANT look at each other. SERGEANT steps up-stage, NELL crosses to DOOGAN.)

NELL. They've got us, Jack.

SERGEANT. (*To O'MALLEY*) You nailed her, did you?

O'MALLEY. Yes, making a getaway from the other side of the house in a taxi. I brought the trunk back, too.

ALL. The trunk!

SERGEANT. Bring it in here.

O'MALLEY. (*Calling off R. U. door*) All right, O'Brien, bring the trunk into this room.

(O'BRIEN enters with trunk and places it on stage up c. JOAN gets on top of it.)

JOAN. My steamer-trunk! (*All exclaim ad lib. Down in left corner from L. to R. CASEY, DOOGAN, NELL, SERGEANT. All others up-stage at trunk. MINISTER looks at trunk and goes R. corner*)

SERGEANT. (*Turns NELL round*) What have you got on you? (*NELL turns from him*) Come on. (*NELL looks at DOOGAN who nods "Yes". She hands SERGEANT four thousand-dollar bills*) Where did you get this money?

NELL. In the linen closet.

MADGE. (*Going down R. of SERGEANT*) Why, that's my money.

SERGEANT. (*Counting it*) How much was there?

MADGE. Four thousand-dollar bills.

SERGEANT. Right. Here you are. (*Hands MADGE money. MADGE goes to CLUNEY*)

MADGE. (*To CLUNEY*) Oh, James, she stole my money! Take it, dear.

CLUNEY. No. (*Puts hands behind his back. They both go up R. C.*)

SERGEANT. Thompson.

THOMPSON. (*R. of SERGEANT*) Yes?

SERGEANT. (*To NELL*) What did you do with detective Thompson's watch?

NELL. (*Looks at DOOGAN and smiles, then speaks smilingly*) Why, I couldn't take his watch—he's the best detective in the state of Rhode Island.

SERGEANT. Come across, come across. (*NELL hands him watch*) The best detective in the state of Rhode Island, eh? (*Hands watch to THOMPSON*)

THOMPSON. (*Looks at watch*) I think I'll go back to school. (*Crosses all the way around stage and up to L. C.*)

CARR. (*R. of SERGEANT*) He's got one thousand dollars belonging to me.

MRS. CARR. (*R. of CARR*) What!

SERGEANT. How did he get it?

CARR. He was minding it for me.

SERGEANT. Frisk him, Casey.

(*CASEY searches DOOGAN.*)

JOAN. (*On trunk*) Isn't it exciting!

SERGEANT. (*Turns NELL around*) Who are you?

NELL. I'm engaged to be married to him. (*She places hand on DOOGAN's shoulder*)

SERGEANT. Engaged? Well, Casey? (*CASEY crosses to SERGEANT gun in L. hand and two five-hundred dollar bills in R. hand. SERGEANT takes money*) A gun, eh? You take care of that Casey. (*CASEY crosses to R. of DOOGAN; getting between NELL and DOOGAN. SERGEANT turns to CARR*) Here's your money, sir.

CARR. Thank you. (*Goes R.*)

MRS. CARR. (*Goes R. of SERGEANT*) One moment, Sergeant, ask him how my daughter got this diamond-sunburst?

(*DOOGAN does not answer. SERGEANT snaps his fingers.*)

DOOGAN. I just slipped her a little wedding present when she wasn't looking.

MRS. CARR. Thank Heaven! (*Crosses R. U. to MADGE, pins brooch on her and kisses her*)

JAMISON. (*Enters L. U. and comes to R. of SERGEANT*) I've got it, I've got it, here it is.

SERGEANT. What?

JAMISON. The new warrant. There, Sergeant, go ahead and serve it.

SERGEANT. (*Hands JAMISON stocks*) Here are you securities.

JAMISON. Thank heaven! Where were they?

SERGEANT. In the safe.

JAMISON. What? Why, that safe——

SERGEANT. We're just clearing up a little mystery here; keep quiet a second.

CARR. (*Crosses to R. of JAMISON*) When am I going to get my money for securities?

JAMISON. Under the circumstances, I am not responsible. I lost my money here in your house.

SERGEANT. (*Turns to NELL*) Now, what did you do with his money?

DOOGAN. She doesn't know anything about that. I got that.

SERGEANT. Where is it?

DOOGAN. In the minister's pocket.

ALL. The minister's pocket?

MINISTER. My pocket! Good gracious! (*Takes money from pocket*)

SERGEANT. (*Crosses to minister, followed by CARR, and gets money*) Why, what does all this mean?

MINISTER. (*Right*) I wish I had a drink of whiskey.

SERGEANT. Ladies, how did this girl get in the house?

MADGE. (*Comes to SERGEANT*) Mother engaged her yesterday.

JOAN. (*Down to MADGE*) She answered our advertisement.

CAROLINE. (*Down to JOAN*) We thought she was all right. (*All three girls ad lib. until SERGEANT raises his hand*)

SERGEANT. That's enough, that's enough, thank you, ladies. (*Girls up-stage. To NELL*) Come on, cutey, you're under arrest. Take her away, O'Malley. (*Passes NELL to O'MALLEY up R.*)

O'MALLEY. Yes, sir.

DOOGAN. (*Has grabbed gun from CASEY by this time and tripped him. He jumps over sofa to door L. U. dragging sofa with him, using it as a barricade. He is pointing gun*) Throw up your hands! I'll put a bullet through the first one that makes a move. (*All hands go up in air*) Come here, Nell, take it on the run.

NELL. But, Jack!

STOP THIEF

DOOGAN. Go on, Nell, I know what I'm doing. (NELL exits L. U.) You people will find everything that's missing in that trunk and the suit-case. As for you cops, let me tell you something, all I want is five minutes' start and you'll never see us in Providence again. We're ready to blow the town, and God help the guy that tries to stop us, for I'm a good shot and I'm desperate, understand? (Exits L. U., slamming door)

SERGEANT. (Shoving sofa out of the way, goes to door and opens it) Hurry up, whip them out. Are you all ready?

POLICEMAN. Yes.

SERGEANT. Then come on. (Exits with CLANCEY; CASEY, THOMPSON, O'MALLEY and O'BRIEN following. All others exit after them except DOCTOR and CLUNEY, who exits R. U. They all rush out yelling "Stop Thief!" blowing police-whistles, etc., etc.)

DOOGAN. (Comes through window down L. and stands below window. NELL follows him and stands on chair above window L.) Good, I think we slipped them.

NELL. (Shielding herself behind window) Everybody is running after them.

DOOGAN. Which way are they going?

NELL. Straight up the street.

DOOGAN. (Going up c.) Good! Us for the back way and the station. (Driver enters from R. c.) Stick up your hands.

NELL. It's my taxi, Jack.

DOOGAN. Your taxi, good. (To driver) Get that trunk on your hack and drive us to the Union Station as fast as God will let you. Come on, Nell, bring the suit-case, I'll watch this fellow. (Exits R. c. following driver)

(NELL picks up suit-case and starts c. as DOCTOR, followed by CLUNEY enters from R. U., speaking as they enter.)

DOCTOR. Hold on, you, here they are!

(NELL starts L. U. as MR. and MRS. CARR enter, followed by JOAN and MADGE; NELL starts for window as MINISTER and CAROLINE enter.)

MINISTER. There she is. (NELL runs C. DOCTOR and CLUNEY stop her. CLUNEY is R. of NELL. MINISTER and CAROLINE on her L. hand. DOCTOR is L. of NELL. MR. and MRS. CARR right. JOAN and MADGE up-stage)

DOCTOR. Where's your pal? (Takes suit-case from NELL)

CARR. Why don't you speak?

CLUNEY. Which way did he go?

CARR. Why don't you answer?

MRS. CARR. Now, my girl, you might as well tell the truth.

DOOGAN. (Off R.) Nellie—Nellie——

DOCTOR. Let's take her to the police station. What is the good of wasting time? (All start for the door L. U.)

DOOGAN. (Enters from R. U.) Take your hands off that girl! Come here, Nellie. (NELL crosses to R. below desk to DOOGAN, who has taken position back of desk)

CLUNEY. (Up L.) I know you are a couple of thieves and I'm going to take you to the police station.

DOOGAN. Like Hell you are!

DOCTOR. (Up R.) See here, do you mean to say you think you can rob this house and then get away?

DOOGAN. That's exactly what I mean.

CLUNEY. It's ridiculous. It can't be done.

DOOGAN. Think it's ridiculous, do you? I'll tell you something more ridiculous—you are going to help us.

STOP THIEF

CLUNEY. We are? I like his nerve.

DOOGAN. I helped you, didn't I?

CLUNEY. Did you, though?

DOOGAN. Who stole the ear-trumpet and the diamond bracelet?

CLUNEY. I don't know.

DOOGAN. That's just it, you don't know.

DOCTOR. Why, what do you mean?

DOOGAN. That those two are a couple of self-confessed kleptomaniacs.

MRS. CARR. Mr. Doogan, for heaven's sake, remember your promise! (*Crosses to L. of desk. CARR to back of desk*)

DOOGAN. That's just what I'm trying to do. Don't you see, Madam, if you get the police back here it means a scandal for you? If you drag me to the police court do you think I'm going to keep my mouth shut while her liberty is at stake? She's all I've got in the world, and I'd lie and steal and fight and die and go to hell for her.

NELL. This was to be our last trick.

DOOGAN. Yes, we were going to be married to-day.

MRS. CARR. Married?

CLUNEY. So were we.

DOOGAN. (*In front of desk R. c.*) Come on, then, let's take an even break. If you get the police back here what will it get you? A lot of newspaper notoriety. What will it get us? Ten years in the penitentiary.

DOCTOR. (*Up R.*) You should have thought of that before. (*Goes up-stage c.*)

MRS. CARR. I can't interfere: the girl's a thief.

NELL. (*Goes to MRS. CARR and kneels*) Mrs. Carr, give us a chance. He was going to turn straight for me. For God's sake, give us this one chance.

MRS. CARR. This is awful! William, what can I say? (*Goes to CARR up R.*)

DOOGAN. (*Goes to NELL, takes her hand and raises her up. Addresses CLUNEY*) Come on, be a lot of regular fellows. You ain't lost anything. Your trunk's down there on the taxi and I'll tell you something that will make you all feel good. You guys didn't steal anything.

ALL. What!

DOOGAN. I stole all that stuff and planted it on you.

CLUNEY. He's a deuced clever chap. I must get him to teach me that trick.

DOOGAN. What do you say, Mr. CluneY?

CLUNEY. What do you say, Mr. Carr?

MRS. CARR. William!

CARR. I'm too relieved to say a word.

MINISTER. (*Up c.*) One moment. You say you were to be married to-day?

DOOGAN. Sure, boss, will you splice us? I've got a license, all right. (*Feels in pocket*) No, I forgot, I planted it on the doctor so the cops couldn't take it from me. (*CARR and MRS. CARR move down R. DOOGAN goes to DOCTOR and gets papers*) Here it is—one is yours. (*Gives DOCTOR his license*) Will you splice us, boss?

DOCTOR. You'd better hurry, the police are liable to be back here any minute.

DOOGAN. Not a chance, they're in Woonsocket by this time and running true to form.

CARR. Don't worry about the police, I'll not press the charge.

DOOGAN. You won't?

CLUNEY. Neither will I.

DOOGAN. That's great!

MRS. CARR. Caroline, watch the drive and warn us if you see the police coming back.

(CAROLINE goes to window L.)

MINISTER. And do you promise to lead honorable lives?

DOOGAN. Honest to God, boss. I'll do anything for her.

MINISTER. Then join hands.

CLUNEY. (L. C. with MADGE) Wait a moment, this is our wedding day and we've waited long enough.

DOOGAN. We'll take seconds.

DOCTOR. Hold on. Joan, will you marry me?

JOAN. (Crosses to DOCTOR R. C.) Yes.

MRS. CARR. What's that?

DOCTOR. We might as well make it a happy ending all around.

MINISTER. Then all kneel.

(The three couples kneel. DOOGAN and NELL C., DOCTOR and JOAN R., MADGE and CLUNEY L. CARR starts to kneel. MRS. CARR picks him up.)

CARR. He said, kneel!

DOOGAN. This is too good to be true, boss.

MINISTER. (Takes C. of stage with back to audience, and starts reading marriage-service)

"Dearly beloved, we are gathered here"——

Curtain





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